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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

Deadly Weather
A severe storm packing ferocious winds tear through Connecticut's largest city.

NATION...Page 10

Countdown
Filipinos on Saipan count down the days until the inaugural ceremony for Benigno Aquino III.

MAHARLIKA...Page 13

Eclipse Premier
"Eclipse," the latest installment in The Twilight Saga vampire series, premieres.

Page 20

"The Summit reaffirmed the commitment of each of the participants, on behalf of their people and their governments, to establish closer ties, expand future discussions and agree on beneficial initiatives for the benefit of the entire Micronesian Region."

9 Micronesian chiefs renew pacts

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, Palau Minister Harry Fritz, Yap Gov. Sebastian Anefal, Marshall Islands Minister-in-Assistance to the President Ruben Zackhras, Federated States of Micronesia President Manny Mori, CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, Kosrae Lt. Gov. William Tosie, Chuuk Gov. Wesley Simina, and Pohnpei Utilities Corp. chair William Kostka on behalf of Gov. John Ehsa.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Nine Micronesian presidents and governors renewed their commitment to further improve island territories' health, livelihood, environment and tourism by signing yesterday a joint communiqué outlining regional programs of action.

See PACTS on Page 4

US-Japan security accord turns 50, faces new strains

By ERIC TALMADGE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

TOKYO (AP)—Uncertainty over a Marine base and plans to move thousands of U.S. troops to Guam are straining a post-World War II security alliance Japan and the United States set 50 years ago, but Tokyo's new leader said he stands behind the pact.

Prime Minister Naoto Kan said this week he sees the arrangement as a crucial means of maintaining the balance of power in Asia, where the economic and military rise of China is looming large, and vowed to stand behind it despite recent disputes with Washington.

"Keeping our alliance with the United States contributes to peace in the region," Kan said in a televised question-and-answer session with other party leaders. "Stability helps the U.S.-Ja-

See US-JAPAN on Page 4

Chiefs get wooden replicas of NMI quarters

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial gave gifts to each of the Micronesian chief executives yesterday, including large, wooden replicas of the Northern Mariana Islands quarters, which the U.S. Mint launched in December 2009.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Yap Gov. Sebastian Anefal, left, receives gifts from CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, right, at the conclusion of the 13th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit at the Fiesta Resort and Spa in Garapan.

Fitial presented the gifts before the adoption and signing of the communiqué at the 13th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit at the Fiesta Resort and Spa in Garapan.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, who served as the master of ceremony, explained the features of the NMI commemorative coin's reverse design, which represents the wealth of the islands in their natural resources.

The design includes a large limestone latte, the supporting column of ancient indigenous Chamorro structures. It also features a canoe of

See CHIEFS on Page 4

Alien workers meet to clarify rumors about parole-in-place. PAGE 3
Tanapag students raise funds for cancer programs. PAGE 5

Local

Fund OKs inclusion of domestic partners in health coverage

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The board of trustees of the NMI Retirement approved Thursday an amendment to regulations governing Group Health Life Insurance program to include domestic partners.

Outgoing Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon recommended the adoption of the amendment after complying with the procedure to publish the proposal in the Commonwealth Register and seek the public's input in a 30-day period.

It was noted during the special board meeting that GHLI's health insurance carrier has already agreed to the change prior to the board's approval.

The amended rule now allows members to extend coverage to their domestic partners, provided the member pays 100 percent of the premium for the domestic partner and requires no government contribution toward the premium.

The trustees also adopted changes in the Fund's administrative rules and regulations pertaining to its administrative hearing officer.

Aguon said all decisions made and rendered by the Fund's hearing officer would now serve as recommendation for board action.

Under existing Fund rules, the hearing officer's decisions were considered final and executory. The amended regulation modified the administrative appeal process for a more comprehensive and efficient process.

"This means that hearing officer will make recommendations for the board to decide. In the existing regulation, the hearing officer can make a decision that automatically becomes an order," Aguon explained.

The new provision states that the hearing officer shall provide the recommended decision to the board within 90 days from the time the matter is referred to the hearing officer. In cases of delays, the hearing officer shall inform the board about the reasons behind the delay.

In other matters tackled during Thursday's special meeting, the board encouraged the management to continue and enhance its public outreach program to inform the community about the Fund's developments and programs.

The board recommended that these public outreach activities be conducted a month prior to the annual membership meeting of the agency, scheduled every February, to promote greater participation among members.

Climate change a serious threat to Micronesia's tourism

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Micronesian Regional Tourism Committee has identified the imminent impact of climate change as a serious threat to the tourism industries' success in the region. To avert severe damage to any industry, Micronesian chiefs must seriously consider and implement initiatives for their respective jurisdictions.

In a presentation before a hundred-plus participants at the recently concluded 13th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit, the regional committee laid down initiatives that primarily focused on education, awareness, and adaptive strategies for the region.

Committee member Judy Torres from the Marianas Visitors Authority pointed out the importance of conducting "Go Green" campaigns throughout the regions by recycling goods and use of energy-efficient materials as well as promoting water conservation among all islands.

Educational programs that will explain topics such as carbon emissions were also among the target initiatives for the year.

To promote awareness of the campaign, Torres disclosed the need to invite experts on climate change, such as Lory Tan of the World Wildlife Fund in the Philippines, who will speak in chapter meeting in Guam this December.

Another key factor to boosting tourism, Torres added, is to encourage government partnership in identifying sites for nominations for the World Heritage Sites.

The committee also proposed establishing economic impact studies.

"This measures the tourism impact within the community such as in Guam," Torres said.

For instance, for every $76,000 in additional visitor spending, one job is created in Guam,. Guam Visitors Bureau returns $82 in spending for every $1 in their budget and the bureau also returns $10 in taxes for every $1 in their budget.

Torres reported that with the support of the Micronesian Chief Executives Summit, the chapter was awarded the PATA Award of Excellence 2010 out of the 39 chapters worldwide.

Torres disclosed that the award recognized the chapter's intelligent use of social media and marketing of Micronesia, lauding its consistent regional promotions, serious commitment to industry training, and solid progress with island destination e-guides and Web sites.

IUMC honors teacher and shelter mothers

Children and youth of the Immanuel United Methodist Church recently honored their faithful and most frequent Sunday School teacher, Ana Cope, who will soon be moving to San Francisco.

A special education teacher at Hopwood High School, Cope has lived in many parts of the world and moved to Saipan in 1992. In addition to being IUMC's most frequent Sunday School teacher, she has frequently presented the worship service's "Time with Our Children" message in very creative ways.

Pastor Millie Carroll's recent "Time with Our Children" honored Cope, using Matthew 6:25-34: "God cares for birds and flowers, you even more, so do not worry." She told the children and youth not to worry: "Although Ms. Ana is leaving, others will teach and care for you. "

The service focused on the same Scripture: overcoming worry and discouragement. Begun by Violy Fondevilla singing, "Why should I be discouraged; God's eye is on the sparrow and I know God watches me," Carroll's sermon included: "As humans we do worry and get discouraged. Many have unemployment, family losses, immigration and financial problems. But we need to try to follow Jesus' example. Jesus recognized and stated the problem. Then he considered and urged others to consider alternatives available. Thirdly, to try to not hold on to that old problem but attempt to move on."

Earlier, IUMC honored mothers at Guma Esperansa, the shelter for victims of domestic violence. Instead of buying flowers for IUMC's mothers on Mothers' Day, that money was given for shelter moms.

Several years ago, shelter staff gave IUMC's sermon and shared:

Outgoing Sunday School director Ana Cope pose with Immanuel United Methodist Church's Mary Jane Polido Domingo and Serafina Rogoyawa on Sunday, honoring domestic violence shelter mothers. The Sunday School kids made a giant Mother's Day card for the shelter mothers. SOL CORPUZ

"The shelter provides safe shelter for women and children affected by home violence. Many escape to this safety with only what they are wearing, without time to gather their children's special toy." IUMC provided toys from a special offering.

The staff member also said: "Length of time women and children stay at the shelter varies from a few hours to many days. Although guidelines are for a stay up to 30 days, women and children only leave after considering all options, receiving counsel and/or referrals, obtaining restraining orders against the abusers, locating alternative housing or working out plans for returning home with increased safety."

She emphasized that domestic violence affects women of all religions, non-religions and all nationalities. "Women affected by abuse should not feel ashamed or blame themselves. They should contact the Violence Hotline at 234-1500."

IUMC considers problems like abuse very much part of its mission based on Jesus' teaching. Everyone is welcome at IUMC in Chalan Kanoa (on Chalan Kanoa Drive east of Town Center and Beach Road, near Mt. Carmel Catholic Church). The multinational service is at 9am and Sunday School is in English. ***(PR)***

Man gets 1-day prison term for beating wife on New Year's Day

A man who beat up his wife on New Year's Day last year was given a one-day sentence yesterday.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Steven Fred Urumelog to one year in prison, all suspended except for one day, for the crime of assault and battery.

Wiseman gave the 37-year-old Urumelog credit for the one day he had already served in prison.

Urumelog was placed on one year of supervised probation and required to pay a $50 fine, $25 court assessment fee, plus probation fee.

Urumelog was ordered to perform 25 hours of community service, write a letter of apology to the victim, and have no further altercations with her.

Wiseman directed Urumelog to report to the Community Guidance Center for counseling evaluation.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Urumelog with assault and battery. He and his counsel, assistant public defender Douglas W. Hartig, entered a plea agreement with the government. Assistant attorney general Shelli Neal represented the government at the hearing.

Urumelog pleaded guilty to assault and battery.

The plea agreement stated that on Jan. 1, 2009, Urumelog harmed the victim by slapping and kicking her. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

For throwing cup of soup at wife's face, referee gets 8-day jail term

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has ordered a basketball referee who threw a cup of soup at his wife to undergo anger management counseling at the Community Guidance Center.

Wiseman sentenced Arnold John Mesa to six months in prison, all suspended except for eight days.

Wiseman, however, gave the 55-year-old Mesa credit for the eight days he had already spent in jail.

The judge ordered the referee to perform 50 hours of community service and pay any restitution to the victim.

Mesa was required to pay a $100 fine, $25 court assessment fee, plus probation fee. He was also placed on supervised probation.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Mesa with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, two counts of assault and battery, and one count of disturbing the peace.

Mesa and his lawyer, chief public defender Adam Hardwicke, signed a plea agreement with assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher.

Mesa pleaded guilty to disturbing the peace. The remaining charges were dismissed as part of the agreement.

The agreement stated that on July 18, 2009, on Saipan, Mesa threw a cup of frittata at the victim.

The complaint stated that Mesa threw the hot soup on the victim's face in the presence of a child during the Sabalu Market at the Civic Center.

Police said the wife was shopping at the time for produce when she and Mesa had an argument. Police said Mesa pulled the victim's hair and punched her head.

Investigators said Mesa also intentionally rammed the victim's car twice in separate incidents in 2009. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Alien workers meet to clarify rumors about parole-in-place

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Some alien worker organizations will hold a consultation meeting today, Saturday, to discuss the submission of documents for the parole-in-place, an issue that has spurred dubious rumors and has prompted many alien workers to troop to the Federal Ombudsman's Office.

United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed and board chair Ronnie Doca said a federal official from the U.S. Department of the Interior will be the guest speaker in the meeting, to be held at the American Memorial Park theater at 5pm.

Syed said other alien workers groups such as the Dekada Movement and the Human Dignity Movement have expressed support for such meeting.

Syed said this meeting is important because there are lots of wrong information and confusion regarding parole-in-place.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services had announced in April that it will grant "parole-in-place" status to foreign nationals in the CNMI who do not have umbrella permits and whose work permits will expire before new visa categories are available to them under federal immigration laws.

With some alien workers starting to apply for the parole-in-place with the Ombudsman's Office a few weeks ago, different rumors also began circulating, such as permanent residency being given out or that another round of registration is being done, among other things.

To clear up the issue, Syed said they are inviting everyone to come and join in the consultation meeting.

He said other topics will also be tackled such as the future status of business people, students, and Freely Associated States citizens or those with immediate relative status.

"Interior's recommendations don't cover these groups of people, so we will discuss strategies on how we can bring this matter to the U.S. Congress' attention for improved status," Syed said.

"Your presence will be highly appreciated and please participate and come up with your own ideas during the meeting," he added.

Micronesia Challenge panel updates regional leaders on progress made

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

In its presentation to the 13th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit, the Micronesia Challenge Committee discussed about the progress made in realizing the committee's goals and objectives, including a "report card" detailing the progress of each nation's efforts.

Launched in 2006, the Micronesia Challenge is a conservation initiative signed by five nations and territories for an effective conservation of at least 30 percent of near-shore marine resources and 20 percent of terrestrial resources by 2020.

Committee member Fran Castro said the committee seeks to standardize monitoring and assessment techniques by identifying regional indicators to measure management effectiveness and progress.

Castro said they want to establish a regional database for the Micronesia Challenge to assist them in this endeavor.

Castro also discussed what each nation is focusing on in accomplishing their tasks. The CNMI is adopting a watershed approach through its federally funded projects. In Guam, an executive order that mandates other Guam agencies to support conservation efforts was recently signed. The Federated States of Micronesia is in the process of finalizing its sustainable financing plan and assessing the current state of its atolls. The Republic of Marshall Islands now applies its conservation action plan, The Reimaanlok. The Republic of Palau is developing communication strategies for its protective area networks.

To promote this conservation venture, Castro identified several venues wherein the committee can promote the Micronesia Challenge, including the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting in Micronesia this September as well as the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The committee is asking for assistance from the Palau government in getting a regional office base. It also urges the Micronesian chief executives to take part in the Coral Reef Task Force and encourage discussions with other federal agencies for support.

The committee presentation was also an opportunity for its young member to discuss the participation of the youth in the Micronesia Challenge.

For her part, Micronesia Challenge CNMI Young Champion Sharisse Rivera talked about the guidebook that she is working on to make young people like her understand the importance of environmental conservation.

Having young champions in the Micronesia Challenge is vital in preparing the next generation of conservation leaders, said Castro.

Shikogakuen Mission visits Saipan

A mission group from Japan is on island to commemorate the 24th anniversary of its pilgrimage on Saipan.

Gordon Marciano of PDI Promoters said 51 members of the Shikogakuen Mission from Narita and Nagoya arrived yesterday morning to hold a memorial service for all those who passed away during World War II at 10am today at the Shikogakuen monument in Banzai Cliff.

The Shikogakuen Mission is a religious organization founded in 1945 by the late Rev. Teruhiko Kawakami.

Kawakami started the mission when he heard his calling one morning—to heal those who lost their loved ones during the war as well as the natives who found themselves caught in the battle.

The Shikogakuen Mission believes in a great Being, the "Father of our great God." The mission considers the soul immortal and that death is a return to God and the beginning of another journey.

The group built the Shikogakuen monument in Banzai Cliff in October 1988

This is the 24th anniversary for the Shikogakuen Mission's pilgrimage tour on Saipan.

PDI Promoters is the group's tour coordinator. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

NMC allots 21 internship slots for high school juniors, seniors

Twenty-one high school juniors and seniors throughout the CNMI will be offered the opportunity to spend their summer developing their research and outreach skills in the fields of nutrition, entomology, aquaculture, plant pathology, agriculture, and food quality and safety.

Interns will be engaged in tasks and field duties that include preparing plant cells and cultures, feeding marine species, assisting in collection of insects and other invertebrates, organizing 4-H Summer Camp, writing articles for newspapers, and preparing samples for food quality analysis.

The positions are offered through the 2010 High School Summer Internship Program at the Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service.

The program, which offers 16 positions on Saipan, one on Tinian, and four on Rota, will take place from July 19 through Aug. 13, 2010.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens, should have an interest in the mentioned fields, and must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher (current transcript). The deadline to submit applications and required documents is July 2, 2010.

For more information, contact the CREES office at 234-5498 ext. 1705 or 1707. Applications can be picked up at the CREES office in Building F (Saipan campus) or at the Tinian and Rota administration offices. They can also be downloaded at http://crees.org/news.asp. ***(NMC)***

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US-JAPAN

From Page 1

pan relationship, and that between China and Japan and, in turn, China and the United States."

The U.S.-Japan alliance, formalized over violent protests in 1960, provides for the defense of Japan while assuring the U.S. has regional bases that serve as a significant deterrent to hostilities over the Korean Peninsula or Taiwan.

Under the pact, promulgated 50 years ago Wednesday, nearly 50,000 American troops are deployed throughout Japan.

The U.S. forces include a key naval base south of Tokyo where the only permanently forward-deployed aircraft carrier has its home port; Kadena Air Base, which is one of the largest in Asia; and more than 10,000 U.S. Marines on the southern island of Okinawa.

The large U.S. presence over the past five decades has allowed Japan to keep its own defense spending low, to about 1 percent of its GDP, and focus its spending elsewhere—a factor that helped it rebuild after World War II to become the world's second-largest economy.

"Even though there are some small problems here and there, in the bigger sense the relationship remains strong," said Jun Iio, a professor at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies in Tokyo. "Very few people think that it is actually necessary to make major changes in the alliance."

But while the alliance is one of the strongest Washington has anywhere in the world, it has come under intense pressure lately over a plan to make sweeping reforms that would pull back roughly 8,600 Marines from Okinawa to the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam.

The move was conceived in response to opposition on Okinawa to the large U.S. military presence there—more than half of the U.S. troops in Japan are on Okinawa, which was one of the bloodiest battlefields of World War II.

Though welcomed by many at first, the relocation plan has led to renewed Okinawan protests over the U.S. insistence it cannot be carried out unless a new base is built on Okinawa to replace one that has been set for closing for more than a decade.

A widening rift between Washington and Tokyo over the future of the Futenma Marine Corps Air Station was a major factor in the resignation of Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama earlier this month. It could well plague Kan as well.

Kan has vowed to build a replacement facility on Okinawa, as the U.S. demanded, but details are undecided. Implementing the agreement would need the support of the local governor, who has expressed opposition to it.

Kan was scheduled to visit Okinawa on Wednesday for ceremonies marking the end of the 1945 battle there that hastened Japan's surrender.

Recent tension on the Korean peninsula and China's growing military assertiveness have undoubtedly driven home the importance of the U.S. security pact with Japanese leaders.

Before he stepped down, Hatoyama suggested that the March sinking of a South Korean warship, allegedly by a North Korean torpedo, contributed to his decision keep Futenma on Okinawa—reversing a campaign pledge to move it off the island.

Tokyo was alarmed in April when a Chinese helicopter came within 300 feet (90 meters) of a Japanese military monitoring vessel in the vicinity of a Chinese naval exercise. That same month, Chinese ships were also spotted in international waters off Okinawa.

Still, the Okinawa problem underscores an increasingly skeptical stance among some Japanese leaders toward the role of the security alliance.

Though the pact was strongly supported by the staunchly pro-U.S. conservative party that ruled Japan for most of the past 60 years, the newly empowered Democratic Party of Japan, which swept to office last year, have taken a more nuanced approach, saying that while close security ties with Washington remain crucial Japan needs to improve its relations with its Asian neighbors, particularly China.

On Monday, Kan said he will reassure Obama when they meet at a summit this weekend that Japan-U.S. ties continue to be "the cornerstone" of Japan's diplomacy.

But he added that "I want to view this relationship from a broader point of view," and stressed Japan must not forget the importance of developing its Asian relationships.

AP

In this Dec. 17, 2009 file photo, a military transport plane moves to the runway at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Ginowan in the southern Japanese island of Okinawa.

CHIEFS

From Page 1

the indigenous Carolinians representing the people's seafaring skills across vast distances, and two white fairy tern birds flying overhead.

A Carolinian mwar (head lei), symbolic of the virtues of honor and respect, borders the bottom of the design near the inscription, "Northern Mariana Islands."

The CNMI commemorative quarter-dollar is the sixth and final coin in the U.S. Mint 2009 District of Columbia and U.S. Territories Quarters Program.

Fitial and his special assistant for administration, Esther Fleming, who also chaired the organizing committee, handed the gifts to the Micronesian leaders one by one.

Yap Gov. Sebastian L. Anefal was the last to receive his gifts and Fitial, as chairman of the 13th Summit, said there's a reason for this.

"Because I do not want Yap to think we're competing with their money stone. But this is only a quarter," Fitial told the crowd, which erupted in laughter.

Yap, one of the states in the Federated States of Micronesia, is famous for its stone money: large doughnut-shaped, carved disks of usually calcite, up to 12 ft. in diameter and most are much smaller. It's not legal tender in the international currency market. Today the money is still owned but not moved, even though ownership may change.

Anefal, in an interview later, said he is thankful for the gifts and echoed Fitial's light remarks that the CNMI only has "quarters," which have less value than Yap's historic stone money.

The CNMI governor also gave other gifts to the Micronesian leaders—glass nameplates with their names, titles and jurisdictions; a book by John F. Furey titled *Island Ecology and Resource Management* and a gift bag with a "variety of hot peppers from our spicy island of Tinian."

Besides Anefal, the others who received the gifts from Fitial were FSM President Manny Mori, Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, Islands Minister-in-Assistance to the President Ruben Zackhras on behalf of President Jurelang Zedkaia, Palau Minister Harry Fritz on behalf of President Johnson Toribiong, Yap Gov. Sebastian Anefal, Chuuk Gov. Wesley Simina, Kosrae Lt. Gov. William Tosie, and Pohnpei Utilities Corp. chairman William Kostka on behalf of Gov. John Ehsa.

PACTS

From Page 1

These include formalizing the creation of a Guam Job Corps Satellite Center that will serve as the starting point for a regional program specific to youth pre-apprenticeship recruitment, and restoring Medicaid eligibility for citizens of the Freely Associated States living in the U.S. and its territories.

By signing the communiqué, leaders also agree to take actions in their respective jurisdictions to combat an alarming rate of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cancer and obesity.

The signing of the 15-page communiqué served as one of the highlights of the 13th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit, which wrapped up yesterday at the Fiesta Resort and Spa in Garapan.

"The Summit reaffirmed the commitment of each of the participants, on behalf of their people and their governments, to establish closer ties, expand future discussions and agree on beneficial initiatives for the benefit of the entire Micronesian Region," leaders said in the communiqué.

Federated States of Micronesia President Manny Mori, in his closing remarks, said he believes and trusts in the "brotherhood of Micronesians."

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, one of the original founders of the Summit and who is about to end his governorship of Guam, said he is proud of the unity and collaboration shown by the leaders. He also said he is confident that future leaders will carry on the same unity, dedication and commitment to regional goals of a better Micronesia.

CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, summit chairman, said the event gave leaders and stakeholders an "updated and clearer projection of where we stand as island communities" and as a region.

"We have also shared our deep concerns in the areas of regional health care opportunities, the need to be adequately prepared for the anticipated impacts of military expansion, and the potential effects of climate change," Fitial said in his closing remarks.

Besides Fitial, Mori and Camacho, the other leaders who signed the communiqué included Marshall Islands Minister-in-Assistance to the President Ruben Zackhras on behalf of President Jurelang Zedkaia, Palau Minister Harry Fritz on behalf of President Johnson Toribiong, Yap Gov. Sebastian Anefal, Chuuk Gov. Wesley Simina, Kosrae Lt. Gov. William Tosie, and Pohnpei Utilities Corp. chairman William Kostka on behalf of Gov. John Ehsa.

The leaders took turns thanking Fitial for hosting the summit, and the CNMI and its people for their hospitality.

Challenges ahead

Fitial reiterated the common purpose of the summit: "establishing a safer, cleaner and healthier region."

"It has indeed been another meaningful Summit. I am very much grateful to my fellow chief executives for taking the time to visit our island of Saioan for this 13th Summit. It is always a pleasure to meet with you," he said.

But the CNMI governor said there are still challenges ahead that he said will be overcome with a steadfast determination and by working together as a region.

Zackhras, of the Marshall Islands, said, "The road ahead will be difficult but we must confront the challenges nonetheless."

"As leaders, it is our solemn duty, and indeed, we owe it to our peoples to ensure that the work accomplished thus far will bring meaningful results and benefits for them and generations to come. Yes, we will prevail in our quest to creating a Micronesia that is more prosperous, a Micronesia that is healthy, a Micronesia that is educated…" he said.

The three-day summit tackled workforce investment, health, invasive species, solid waste management, conservation through the Micronesia Challenge and related environmental programs, renewable energy, tourism, transportation, communication, and military buildup in the Marianas.

The communiqué, which Fitial described as the "most sacred document" to come out of the summit, outlines the latest reports and recommendations from the regional committees.

Besides committee members, the other speakers at the summit included officials from the U.S. Coast Guard, the Joint Guam Program Office, the Department of Defense's Office of Economic Adjustment, the Federal Aviation Administration, and Continental Micronesia.

By signing the document, the leaders also agreed to greater coordination and communication to accomplish the goals set out since 2003.

The chief executives also committed to fully integrating regional issues into ongoing governmental planning and budget processes within each jurisdiction.

The 14th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit will be held in Kosrae in the FSM.

Tanapag students raise funds for cancer programs

They could have said, "Let's just wait till next year."

Several months ago, Tanapag Elementary School's Student Council realized that they would be unable to participate in the 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer as a school team because they had interscholastic sporting events taking place on the same weekend, May 14-15, 2010. Many of the student officers were also athletes who had already signed up for the sports competitions.

"We wanted so much to participate [in the Marianas March Against Cancer]," Student Council adviser Ace Dela Cruz explained, but they could not. "So we met and decided to fundraise at the school level."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Officers of the Tanapag Elementary School's Student Council and other students present a check for $100 to Commonwealth Cancer Association board president Alex Sablan on June 8.

The Student Council organized a successful fundraiser dance and movie night in the school cafeteria on May 14. On June 8 the students turned over a check for $100 to Commonwealth Cancer Association board president Alex Sablan.

Sablan visited Tanapag Elementary School on June 8 to accept the Student Council's contribution.

"We are truly inspired by the initiative and generosity that these young people have shown in support of our cancer programs," Sablan said. "We thank the students from the bottom of our hearts, and we also thank their advisers, parents, school administration, and all the members of the school community who supported their efforts."

According to Dela Cruz, this is the first time the students have contributed to the Commonwealth Cancer Association. "We [Tanapag Elementary School] wanted to give the students the opportunity to be involved in helping organizations that benefit the whole community from the school level and chose the CCA," she said.

The Student Council plans to continue its fundraising efforts next school year, and hopes to register as a school organization in the 2011 Marianas March Against Cancer.

The Tanapag Elementary School Student Council officers are Ana Lieto (president); Marie Lieto (vice president); Candy Quijano (treasurer); Daniele Manzandes (secretary); Magdalena Lieto (publicity director); and Benellen Camacho (historian). The Student Council advisers are Deborah Moore, Eluene Baza, Lavena Babauta, and Ace Dela Cruz.

The CCA is a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting cancer awareness, providing patient support services, and serving as the liaison for cancer issues in the CNMI and the region. The Marianas March Against Cancer is the signature annual fundraising event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, and the biggest fundraiser in the CNMI for cancer awareness and patient support programs. For more information, visit www.ccamarianas.org, call 682-0050, or e-mail cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

PIC Saipan scholarship deadline is next Friday

The Northern Marianas College is reminding students that the deadline to apply for the Pacific Islands Club Saipan Scholarship is Friday, July 2, 2010.

Application forms for the PIC Saipan Scholarship are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas College Financial Aid Office, or can by downloaded at the college's Web site at www.nmcnet.edu.

The PIC Saipan Scholarship will be providing seven NMC students $500 a semester for up to three semesters. The college offers associate's degrees in business administration, liberal arts, nursing, natural resource management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. In addition, NMC also offers bachelor degrees in elementary education, and education with emphasis on human services.

The scholarships are based on merit and financial need and will be awarded to the recipient on the bases of the candidate's community involvement, academic background, letters of recommendation, and a written essay. An interview may also be required.

To be eligible, a student must be a U.S. citizen (or green card holder) and a CNMI resident for the past three years; be accepted and enrolled as a full-time student at NMC; have a high school or college cumulative GPA of 2.00 or better; and, be able to demonstrate financial need.

For more information, contact NMC's Financial Aid Office at 234-5498 Ext. 1527. ***(NMC)***

Military sets training on Warning Area-517, Farallon de Medinilla

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Air Force will conduct training on Warning Area-517 on June 28-July 2 from 7 a.m.-midnight and on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on June 30 and July 2, from 7am to 8pm.

The general public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from these areas during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(USN)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The general's loose lips

© 2010, Miami Herald

What was he thinking?

Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal—by all standards, a soldier's general and among a new breed of officers whose job was as much directing the theater of war in Afghanistan as it was pitchman for war policy in the political theater of Washington—stepped down Wednesday.

President Obama, calling Gen. McChrystal "one of our nation's finest soldiers," said he accepted his resignation because his conduct, as reported in off-the-cuff remarks he made to Rolling Stone magazine, were not in keeping with the U.S. military code. He's right.

Article 88 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice states: "Any commissioned officer who uses contemptuous words against the President, the Vice President, Congress, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of a military department ... shall be punished as a court-martial may direct."

Certainly, the Rolling Stone report did not suggest the general disagreed with the president's war policy. His remarks and that of unnamed aides mocked and denigrated, among others, the U.S. ambassador in Kabul, Karl Eikenberry; Vice President Joe Biden (who had opposed more troops in Afghanistan); and James Jones, the president's national security advisor, who was called a clown.

Once the story broke, Gen. McChrystal knew he had to go. American democracy flourishes precisely because the military is governed by a civilian commander-in-chief—an elected president.

Gen. McChrystal certainly is not the first officer who has let his ego get in the way of his obligation to follow the military code. During George W. Bush's presidency, Adm. William Fallon retired early from his Central Command post after making statements about Iran policy to Esquire magazine that were not in keeping with Mr. Bush's policy.

And so it is. There is no "free speech" in the military until a soldier—be that person a general or a grunt—retires.

War is dangerous business, bigger than any one person. The flap over the general's published statements made his position directing the war untenable. The trust factor was shattered.

This is an especially difficult time to be making a change in U.S. leadership, but the president's selection of Gen. McChrystal's boss, Gen. David H. Petraeus, who leads the U.S. Central Command, was a master stroke. Gen. Petraeus is rightly credited for the Iraq war surge that worked. He is personable but knows the chain of command. Soldiers admire and respect him.

After nine years in Afghanistan, Americans are understandably ready to disengage even if that country remains mired in tribal disputes, while the Taliban and al Qaeda are poised to retake it and plot more attacks on U.S. soil. The step-up in U.S. troops in the Afghan theater has increased U.S. casualties. And corruption in Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai's administration has been a perennial problem.

No one—president or general—can fix this mess quickly. It will take a united front by the Obama administration to lay out the threats and deal with the facts on the ground. American troops still in harm's way deserve nothing less.

An analysis of the proposed Saipan Casino Control Act

By RAMON BLAS CAMACHO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The following is Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon Blas Camacho's testimony on House Bill 17-56, the proposed Saipan Casino Control Act of 2010, at the June 11, 2010, public hearing conducted by the House Committee on Commerce & Tourism. Due to its length, it will be published as a six-part series.

Last part of a six-part series

Needless to say, after the last garment shutdown, the once thriving garment villages on Saipan turned to shanty, ghetto-like ghost towns overnight! And never to come back, I might add, thanks to union liberals in the U.S. Congress!

True, the people of Saipan had twice voted down casino in the past as an economic option and an alternative industry. That was when Saipan did not really need the extra revenue from commonly perceived social vices like casinos, and besides, the island economy was strong enough to do without casinos in favor of more benign social vices like bingos, cockfights, pokers and golf courses. Fortunately, the local economy thrived then.

Today, the economic landscape is not what it once was and used to be. The lyrics to the economic music have changed, as did its tempo.

Saipan no longer has the garment to contend with, nor the air and shipping capacity advantage taken for granted in times past, much less the capability to engage in volume fuel purchase to lower fuel cost for utilities or vehicles, as it did in the past.

Like Saipan, Tinian also once thumped down on casinos before embracing the gaming industry and moving forward its economy with casino.

So did Rota.

Now both Rota and Tinian have casinos. What was feared about casinos then was just that, fear itself!

In any developing country, such as Saipan, having to contend without readily available natural resources; lacking in population size to engage in a robust large scale commerce; and the technical capacity; and wherewithal for exports that would precipitate a favorable balance of trade, in order to counter the huge demand on imported goods, it is essential, for all of these reasons, to facilitate outside capital infusion to jumpstart the local economy and nurture it, so that it becomes sustainable.

Sadly, the CNMI, at this moment, has lost much of its luster and appeal, and its economy requires nothing short of a life support in order to prod its economic engine back to normalcy. If not casino now, then what alternative do we have in store? Military? Pozzolan mining? Manganese nodule extraction in the Marianas Trench? Hello.

III. Recommendation

Based on the foregoing analyses and conclusion, the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council respectfully recommends to 17th House of Representative, Committee on Commerce & Tourism, the 17th House of Representatives and the 17th Senate to support passage of this extraordinary measure needed during these extraordinary times. Now.

Of course, it would be disingenuous of the council if we do not respectfully ask for the amendments we feel are essential which comports with the spirit of Article VI in the constitution, specifically over the budget process, procedure and allocation in HB 17-56. We respectfully request that the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council be included in the budget process, procedure, and allocation in the same manner as the Saipan mayor and municipal treasury.

We also ask that a separate budget submission be allowed for the Mayor of Northern Islands, and for the Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council to be provided for in the budget allocation on operation and village-level programs, projects and activities.

Furthermore, like the Tinian and Rota municipal councils, we respectfully request that the Mayor of the Northern Islands be allowed to appoint casino commission members in the same manner as the Mayor of Saipan, and have the nominees or appointees subject to confirmation by the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council.

Not only is this suggested procedure in conformance with current standard practice in Tinian and Rota, but this procedure also expedites resolution of issues that would remain pending otherwise. In other words, it is more convenient and expeditious for a three-member council to work with and resolve issues compared to a 18-member house and 3-member Senate, for a total of 21 delegates to contend with, each with varying priorities, project interests and individual projects, as opposed to strictly addressing quality of life issues holistically within the municipality and the community by the three-member council (e.g., neighborhood watch, village revitalization, etc.).

To this end, we encourage the committee and the 17th legislature to engage in thoughtful and meaningful dialogue and deliberation over House Bill 17-56, and set aside any parochial and provincial inclinations, by supporting passage of this needed economic rescue plan with the amendments enumerated above.

The council stands ready to discuss any or all parts of the analysis contained in the attachment in any public forum. Simply communicate with Ms. Frances Muna at your council office at 664-2700 to make the necessary arrangement.

Ramon Blas Camacho is chairman of the Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council.

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General wasn't the problem

By TRUDY RUBIN
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

I feel sorry for Stan McChrystal. He got sacked because his aides were too honest with a Rolling Stone reporter. They rashly exposed a problem that is undercutting the war effort: the infighting among civilian and military officials in Kabul and Washington.

The general's aides shouldn't have mocked top civilian officials, and he deserved to be chastised. However, President Obama, in explaining the general's firing, said the war requires "unity of effort." If so, he'll need to do more than send the general home.

McChrystal's staff made snide remarks to Rolling Stone about Vice President Biden, Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, and National Security Adviser James Jones. The general complained about being "betrayed" by Karl Eikenberry, the U.S. ambassador to Kabul. Obama argued that the Rolling Stone piece "erodes the trust necessary for the team to work together."

What trust? The article reflects serious tensions between Obama's civilian and military advisers in Kabul, fed by the conflicting positions of White House and Cabinet officials on Afghan strategy. These tensions make it impossible to fashion a coherent policy that Americans—and Afghans—can understand.

McChrystal and Eikenberry differed over how to wage the war and how to deal with Afghan President Hamid Karzai. The relationship between embassy and military commanders in Kabul remains distant and mistrustful.

To complicate matters further, the president's special envoy to the region, the brilliant but brusque Richard Holbrooke, is resented by embassy staff as well as many in the military. His infrequent presence causes confusion among Afghan officials about who speaks for the president.

Obama's D.C. team adds to the confusion, with Biden making statements about Obama's 2011 pullout deadline that conflict with those of the secretaries of defense and state, Robert Gates and Hillary Clinton. The president has yet to clarify whose interpretation he endorses.

"This is a highly dysfunctional team," said former U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker, referring to those who work on the war in Afghanistan. "You can't win the big war if we're fighting the small ones with each other. And unity has to start at the top."

Indeed, the only good that might emerge from McChrystal's exit is if Obama—and Gen. David Petraeus, his choice to succeed McChrystal—can finally weld these players into a team that works together. Otherwise, the sacking will only aid those who are cheering American disarray.

It was very risky for Obama to fire McChrystal, who never challenged the president's Afghan strategy. McChrystal leaves at a key juncture, with efforts to stabilize southern Afghanistan, the Taliban heartland, faltering.

That said, we are fortunate Petraeus is willing to step down from a broader command of Mideast operations (including Afghanistan and Pakistan) to take the job of NATO and U.S. commander in Kabul. He is wholly familiar with the strategy and the players, and has a history, in Iraq, of making counterinsurgency work.

Of critical import, he made military-civilian cooperation a virtual religion when he worked with Crocker in Baghdad. If he wants to counteract the downside of McChrystal's exit, Obama should give Petraeus all the backing he needs.

And the president should use McChrystal's departure to send the message that his entire Afghan team needs to start cooperating with each other. "Disharmony at the very top may breed (the tensions) you had with Eikenberry and McChrystal," said Crocker. "That permeates down. You have to sort it out at the top level."

Obama needs to lead by example. If Gates, Petraeus, and Clinton believe (wisely, in my book) that the 2011 deadline depends on conditions on the ground, and Biden says otherwise, the president should clarify his position and keep everyone on message.

Indeed, if the president really seeks "unity of effort" on the war, it's time to summon Biden, Jones, Gates, and Clinton, along with Eikenberry and Petraeus, for separate and collective consultations, to see whether they are ready to cooperate. If not, more changes of personnel are needed.

It's tragic enough that a talented general has been disgraced. But at least this episode should serve some purpose. Otherwise, the civilian-military divisions that brought down McChrystal will continue to haunt Petraeus and undercut our efforts in Afghanistan.

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.*

Secondhand pee (III)

By DAVID KHORRAM, M.D.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

David Khorram, MD is a board-certified ophthalmologist and the medical director of Marianas Eye Institute. Comments and questions are welcome. Call 235-9090 or contact Dr. Khorram through www.MarianasEye.com. © David Khorram, 2010

In the years I've spent in the Commonwealth, a lot of good things have happened. There are three that stand out: the integration of the CNMI into the U.S. phone system, which took our long distance phone rates from $1.70 per minute to about 3 cents per minute; the construction of the Beach Road Pathway; and the passage of the Smoke-Free Air Act of 2008, which made it possible to walk out of a restaurant smelling like the food, not like someone's exhaled tobacco smoke. Did you know that the Legislature is now considering repealing parts of the Smoke-Free Air Act? The argument is always the same: it's good for the economy. In fact, the economy is the one cause that can be invoked to convince us that we need something that is clearly bad for us. Poker is good for the economy. Casinos are good for the economy. Marijuana is good for the economy. Now, apparently smoking is good for the economy (or rather, the lack of smoking in certain public places has been bad for our economy). I'm waiting the day when someone will propose that we legalize prostitution, because that, too, is good for the economy. (We already know that karaoke is good for the economy.)

Anyway, when the issue of secondhand smoke was being discussed a few years ago, I wrote a column, *Secondhand Pee*, that I had to publish twice. The first time, some people got confused, thinking that I was actually talking about *pee*, when I was really talking about smoke. So I had to publish it again, explaining that the column started with the quotation, *"Having a smoking area in a restaurant is like having a peeing section in a swimming pool,"* established the context of everything else that followed. Because it is a ridiculous idea that a pool would have a peeing section, it is equally ridiculous for a restaurant to have a smoking section. Some apparently small number of people got the joke of the column. The very absurdity of presenting a serious argument against peeing in the pool highlights the equally absurd notion that we consider it remotely OK to smoke in a restaurant. I was hoping, once again, to capitalize on this absurdity.

In light of the current bill before the Legislature that seeks to allow smoking in restaurants and other places, I've been asked to print this column once more. Any time you see "pee" think "smoke," and when you see "swimming pool," think "restaurant."

■■■

"Having a smoking area in a restaurant is like having a peeing section in a swimming pool."

It's a pity that swimming pools here have not instituted a non-peeing policy. Health officials are now considering the idea of banning peeing completely from public places. Over the past few years government offices have gradually adopted and implemented a policy of peeing only in designated areas. I do hope that our islands' businesses soon voluntarily adopt policies that ban peeing from all public places, including swimming pools.

The issue of peeing in swimming pools is a touchy one. The argument has been presented many times that by banning peeing from swimming pools, our tourist will be upset. The practice is common in their home countries, so the argument goes, and if we implement a non-peeing policy, our tourism will be adversely affected. After all, a nice relaxing pee along with a cup of coffee after a swim is an integral part of the swim. How can you possibly enjoy a swim when you're denied the pleasure of peeing in the pool afterwards?!

In reality, tourists know that they are in a foreign land and are prepared to suffer all kinds of inconveniences, like using weird looking money, hearing strange accents, and even being denied the pleasure of peeing in a foreign pool. If they've traveled before, they expect that here too, the swimming pools will be "pee-free" and that pools will not have a special peeing section.

For years, those who have not been inclined to pee in the pool—the "non-pee-ers"—have been working to enlighten folks about their perspective. They have argued that peeing in the pool just isn't a nice thing to do. It's, well, somewhat foul. You go into a pool expecting a nice swim, and leave tainted by secondhand pee. People simply don't like being exposed to secondhand pee. But recent scientific data has shed new light on this subject. The issue isn't just that exposure to secondhand pee is unpleasant. It's down-right dangerous. Studies have shown (not surprisingly) that secondhand pee is a risk factor for all kinds of diseases. It increases cancer, heart disease, and a variety of other problems, especially in children who are exposed to secondhand pee.

Banning peeing from public places, particularly swimming pools, is not an issue of restricting the rights of pee-ers or of stepping on the toes of our tourists. It's a matter of common sense and good health, backed by real scientific data. Secondhand pee is bad, not just unpleasant. I do hope that if you are a swimming pool owner, you don't wait for official policy to remove the peeing section from your establishment. Make your restaurant smoke-free…er, I mean, your swimming pool pee-free. After all, where would you rather swim?

Letters to the Editor

Get your facts straight

Let me try to get some facts straight.

First, I have nothing against aliens nor do I hate them. In my family alone, I have three brothers who are married to Filipinas. Eddie has four sons and two daughters. Talong has two sons of Filipino blood, and my beloved Ando has two sons and a daughter. My eldest son, Jack, has a daughter who is half-Filipino. My son Pete has two sons of Chinese blood.

When we were young, my dad and mom sponsored two Korean teenagers, a boy and a girl. We had a Yapese nephew who stayed with us for over a year and a half. We were very contented, satisfied, and happy of what my family went through. I love them all! In my Deleon Guerrero and Pangelinan families, we can build a community and call it small Pampanga or little Manila through intermarriage of our blood with Filipino folks—our family.

Am I prejudiced or a hateful person? Don't make me laugh!

Second, the first, second and third groups of foreign laborers, along with the early Korean business groups who came to the CNMI and built the infrastructures and put up businesses, most of them have gained U.S. citizenships, have children born and raised here. They have been here for more than 30, 25, 20, and over 15 years. We, the local Chamolinians, have no problem with them. We call them brothers and sisters. We say, "Thank you, *kababayan*, *maraming salamat po,* and *kamsahamnida*. You are part of our families."

Third, for aliens who have been here for less than 15 years, you want to be recognized that you built the infrastructure—you did this and did that. Get your facts straight. Starting in 1995 up to the present, the garment industry started to nosedive. This was the time when alien workers came here as security guards, garment factory helpers, and menial laborers. For many of these workers, their own people hired them, stole their money, then abandoned them here in the CNMI. Our immigration and labor departments, through an act of kindness, tried to transfer them and put them in other jobs so they can gain back their losses.

Is this how you and many of your group give thanks to us? There is an old saying that says, "Do not bite the hand that feeds you." Yes, feed you, because when you have no job, no money to buy food, you ask our Karidat to help you.

For aliens who have been here for less than 15 or 16 years, what infrastructure have you built? The answer is nothing! Yet, you have been very vocal, demanding better treatment and status. You are so loud about your plight. If you are not satisfied here with the current situation, then you are welcome to leave the CNMI.

Pedro DLG Pangelinan
Finasisu, Saipan

A viable plan

Governor Camacho's move to look into the "cruise" tourist industry is one very important action, second only to the U.S. military buildup. The CNMI leadership should embrace this plan and be active participant as this will contribute to the badly needed revenue for the CNMI.

The average cruise ship visiting tiny islands in the Caribbean contribute to those islands $200,000 to $250,000 every single day to their economy. The CNMI, of course, stands to gain from this industry. What need to be done is to promote and magnify each island for their uniqueness within the region so that together, Micronesia can be a viable destination for the industry.

Right now, most cruise activities benefit many small islands in the Caribbean. Why not promote our region and show that we have something better to offer? Imagine a cruise package covering all Micronesian Islands. We should all support Governor Camacho's plan and act in that direction.

Frank Atalig
Sinapalo 1 Rota

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲90° ▼79°	▲90° ▼79°	▲90° ▼79°	▲90° ▼79°	▲90° ▼78°

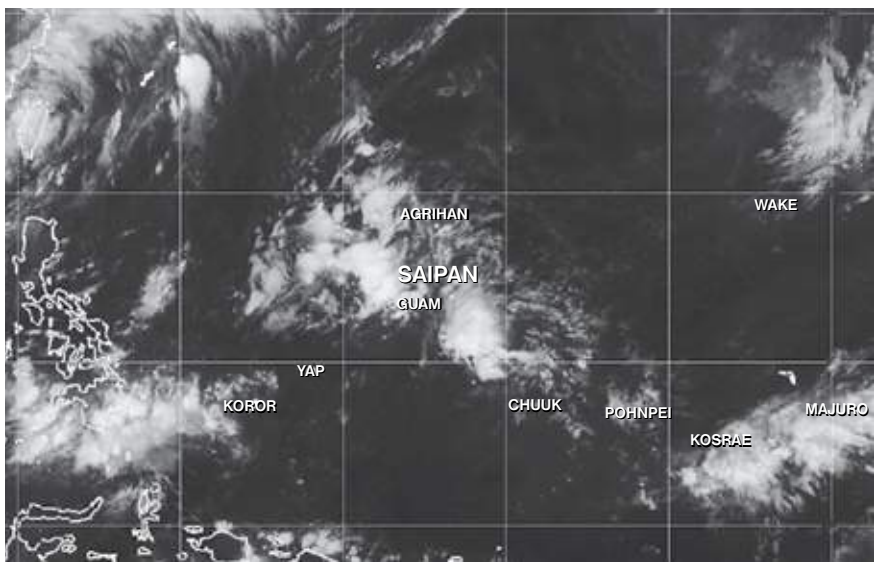
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Rain	▲84	▼79
Majuro	Rain	▲82	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲58	▼51
Beijing	Sunny	▲89	▼70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲84	▼81
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼60
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲92	▼82
Melbourne	Showers	▲57	▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼82
New York	Sunny	▲86	▼67
Osaka	Rain	▲76	▼75
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼59
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲77	▼70
Rome	Sunny	▲82	▼64
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼51
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼70
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲82	▼73
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲91	▼75

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Divergence associated with an upper-level low centered near 18N141E is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms just west of the Mariana Islands in an area from 23N142E to 13N144E to 14N135E back to 23N142E. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Guam within 100 miles of a line from 14N147E to 9N149E. Low-level convergence is also triggering scattered showers northwest of Koror, Palau within 75 miles of a line from 9N134E to 7N130E. A trade-wind disturbance between Kosrae and Majuro is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across the central Marshall Islands within 150 miles of a line from 3N161E to 7N174E. Convergent winds associated with low pressure well north of Wake Island are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of a line from 25N165E to 23N170E to 25N174E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:34 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
6:11 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
1:54 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
9:12 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:43 PM	5:16 AM
Sunday	7:31 PM	6:11 AM
Monday	8:15 PM	7:04 AM
Tuesday	8:56 PM	7:55 AM
Wednesday	9:33 PM	8:45 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 27, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:10am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/703	2:20am	11:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/703	2:50am	11:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	12:10am+1	1, 5 via PUS
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05am	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:20am+1	4, 7 via PUS
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up:
Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road,
Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service,
Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

JUNE 26, 2000

Curfew hours reinforced for minors

The Division of Youth Services, along with the Department of Public Safety Juvenile section, is keeping a close watch on curfew violators around the Garapan area in fresh efforts to curb crimes and misdemeanors committed by juveniles especially during the nightly Liberation Day carnival. DYS Juvenile Probation Supervisor Sylvio Ada has underscored the need to crack down on minors who stay way beyond curfew hours without parental guidance. "We are especially on the lookout for minor consuming alcohol, for assault and battery and others," said Mr. Ada. The law enforcement team has been tasked by lawmakers to monitor not only activities at the Liberation Day carnival but also at the Garapan Street Market every Thursdays.

Court dismisses motion filed by asylum seekers

The petition by two Chinese nationals for political asylum here suffered another blow after the U.S. District Court on Friday denied two motions that would have consolidated their cases against the CNMI, the federal government as well as their various officials. Judge Alex R. Munson cited as ground for the rejection the case not being properly before the court. He had previously issued decisions dismissing their lawsuit in the federal court due to lack of jurisdiction. Rui Liang and Liao Da Nian, who are citizens of the People's Republic of China, sued both the CNMI and federal governments and 25 of their officials to force them to process their asylum application.

JUNE 26, 2001

$17M Kagman sewer system underway

An average of one million gallons of human waste is flushed into septic tanks of Kagman homes everyday, threatening contamination of groundwater in the village where water potability is considered the best on Saipan. "We know that human waste or septic systems can leak and harm our groundwater. Human and animal waste decomposes into a chemical called nitrate," said Joe Kaipat, manager of the Division of Environmental Quality's Safe Drinking Water Program. As this developed, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation announced that it has completed the "conceptual design" of a $17 million facility—a sewage collection system and wastewater treatment plant—to be constructed in Kagman.

Managaha's potential excites local tour firm

Tasi Tours, the only remaining bidder in the Managaha concession, is looking at the island-resort's long-term business potential rather than what little profit it could squeeze in the immediate future. Tasi Tours President Iku Katayama said although poor visitor arrivals and the slow rally of the economy continue to make it harder for the company to turn a good profit, it is still generally upbeat about the potential revenue Managaha Island can generate in the future. Katayama said the company regards Managaha Island as the crown jewel of its operations in the Commonwealth, which is one of the main reasons why the company is hopeful it continues to get the contract, after holding the concession for 11 straight years.

JUNE 26, 2002

Arrangements finalized for PAL flights

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is finalizing negotiations with the Philippine Airlines for its direct flight between Saipan and Manila, which is scheduled to normalize next month. Regular flights between Saipan and Manila are eyed to start in July as the Philippine flag carrier makes the island a temporary stopover for its Manila-Honolulu service. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas explained that negotiations are underway as ports and PAL executives discuss other aspects of the Saipan-Manila flights. The two parties are currently discussing plans for the opening of PAL counter, PAL Saipan office for reservation and ticket handling operations, and other pertinent concerns before the airline company proceeds with its regular service to the CNMI.

Tebuteb asks for hearing on violations

Rep. Ray Tebuteb, one of three House lawmakers who were cited for violating local environmental laws during a trip to the Northern Islands, has asked for an administrative hearing so he could explain his side on the matter. Tebuteb made the request in a letter addressed to Fish and Wildlife Director Richard Seman. This comes soon after a similar administrative hearing that Rep. Arnold I. Palacios also asked of the agency in the wake of the citation. Palacios said he is now just awaiting the result of the hearing.

Business

Rising deficits worry G20

TORONTO (AP)—World leaders trickled into Canada's largest city on Thursday for global economic talks, but their resolve seemed less focused than at earlier meetings held in the fearful atmosphere of the worst downturn since the 1930s. New leaders in Australia, Japan and Britain could alter the dynamics.

With recoveries in their countries proceeding at starkly different paces, leaders of the 20 largest industrial and developing nations found themselves at odds over how to strike the right balance between continued government stimulus spending and confronting ballooning budget deficits. Divisions also persisted on proposals for a global bank tax and over how much multinational banks should be required to keep on reserve as a cushion against loan losses.

"The most pressing issue is sustainable economic growth," said Canada's finance minister, Jim Flaherty. But he told a news conference before a speech to the Toronto Board of Trade that this means different things in different parts of the world.

"There are clearly some countries, particularly some European countries, that need to fiscally consolidate on an urgent basis," he said.

He noted that Canada's economy is fundamentally strong and that its banks weathered the financial crisis without failures or government bailouts. "We are the envy of the world," he said in voicing opposition to a global bank tax.

Security was tight as foreign leaders arrived during the day and their motorcades tied traffic into knots near the airport and on roads into town. Barricades turned Toronto's downtown core into a virtual fortress.

Police said they took a man into custody Thursday after searching a car and finding containers of gasoline and implements that could be used as weapons, including a cross bow, a chain saw a baseball bat and sledge hammers. A large makeshift container was strapped to the roof. The car was stopped near a hotel where the French delegation is staying for the summit. Workers at the hotel had walked off the job Thursday as part of a labor dispute.

Const. Hugh Smith said the man was being questioned on why he had so many of the items and why he was in the area. He said charges are pending. The vehicle was seized. Const. Tony Vella said there's no reason to believe the incident was summit-related.

Although heavier protests were expected later in the week, demonstrations on Thursday were tame and nonconfrontational. Police with bicycles moved in tandem with several hundred First Nations protesters—descendants of Canada's aboriginal residents. They marched through downtown streets, waving upside-down Canadian flags, pounding on drums and shouting, "No G-20 on stolen native land."

Canadian police patrolled the Lake Ontario waterfront from various boats and jet skis.

One of the first to arrive in Canada was Chinese President Hu Jintao, who met separately on Thursday in Ottawa with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the summit host.

Harper and Hu signed an agreement that would allow for more Chinese to visit Canada. Hu also agreed to clear the way for Canadian beef to be exported to China.

Japanese consumer prices fall for 15th month in May

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese consumer prices fell for the 15th straight month in May as deflation kept its grip on the world's second biggest economy.

The core consumer price index, which excludes fresh food, fell 1.2 percent from a year earlier, the government said Friday.

The result beat Kyodo news agency's average market forecast for a 1.3 percent decline. It also represents an improvement from April's 1.5 percent fall, suggesting price declines may be moderating as Japan's economy benefits from a jump in exports.

Data Thursday showed that exports expanded 32.1 percent in May thanks to brisk global demand for cars and high-tech products. That is gradually leading to improvements in jobs, wages and prices in Japan.

Earlier this month, the Bank of Japan's predicted that the decline in CPI is expected to slow in the months ahead.

The government's new high school tuition breaks weighed heavily on prices in May, dragging education costs down 13 percent during the month. Falling prices for furniture, household goods and clothes also dragged the index south.

Lower prices may boost individual purchasing power, but deflation is generally bad for an economy. It plagued Japan during its "Lost Decade" in the 1990s, hampering growth by depressing company profits, sparking wage cuts and causing consumers to postpone purchases. It also can increase debt burdens.

Core CPI for Tokyo fell 1.3 percent in June. The reading is considered a barometer of price trends nationwide, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

Nation

Severe storm shatters largest city in Connecticut

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (AP)—A severe storm packing ferocious winds tore through Connecticut's largest city Thursday, toppling trees and power lines and collapsing several buildings as a powerful line of storms swept across parts of the Northeast. Remarkably, no serious injuries were reported.

Hundreds of bricks shook loose from buildings, trees split in half and crushed cars, and a billboard hung precariously several stories up over Main Street. Nine buildings were partially or fully collapsed, including three on East Main Street that were brought to their foundations. Rescuers searched the rubble to ensure no one had been inside.

Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch declared a state of emergency after the fast-moving system of driving rain and wind gusts that reached 78 miles per hour in the area.

Jacqueline Arroyo, 44, said she saw a black cloud and ran inside to her third-floor apartment, where the window exploded. Trees were blown so ferociously they appeared to be coming out of the ground, and people were screaming, she said.

"All the wind started coming inside the house. I heard 'boom, boom!'" she said. "It was so fast but terrifying."

A jail was without power, Finch said. The mayor urged residents to stay indoors and remain calm, and Gov. M. Jodi Rell was surveying damage to the city.

Fire Chief Brian Rooney said 25 people were taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The American Red Cross helped relocate 22 people, he said.

Rooney called it a miracle there was no loss of life.

"Anybody that was in the path of that storm would have been in big trouble," he said.

A billboard hangs y from an East Main Street building after a violent afternoon thunderstorm Thursday in Bridgeport, Conn.

AP

A Catholic high school, a museum dedicated to P.T. Barnum and several other buildings also had roof and window damage. Tree limbs and power lines blocked traffic on some roads in Bridgeport, a former industrial and manufacturing center of about 135,000 residents that has taken steps in recent years to revitalize areas downtown and waterfront properties.

United Illuminating reported nearly 21,100 customers without power after the storms, along with about 3,800 customers of Connecticut Light & Power.

There were unconfirmed sightings of a tornado, Finch said. A tornado warning had been issued for the area, but National Weather Service meteorologist Richard Castro said the agency would have to survey the area to confirm that one had hit.

Edward Beardsley said the noise of the storm hurt his ears and the force of the wind sent him to the other end of his house. "It was a noise I never heard before. The noise—it killed my ears. My two cats still won't come out from under the bed."

Describing the storm, he said, "Everything was pitch black and going in a circle down the road."

Winds that were part of a powerful storm gusted at 78 mph at Sikorsky Memorial Airport at Stratford and blew over some planes.

Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., said in a statement that he will work with local, state and federal officials to help Bridgeport and area towns obtain assistance, including help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency if necessary.

Police: Calif couple tried to sell baby at Walmart

SALINAS, Calif. (AP)—A California couple faces child endangerment charges after police say they tried to sell their 6-month-old baby for $25 outside a Walmart store.

Salinas police spokesman, Officer Lalo Villegas, said Thursday that Patrick Fousek, 38, and Samantha Tomasini, 20, were arrested early Wednesday, hours after Fousek allegedly approached two women outside Walmart and asked if they'd like to purchase his child.

The women initially thought Fousek was joking, but when he became persistent, they became suspicious and reported it to police, Villegas said. "They did an outstanding job and gave our officers good information. I don't know if they're mothers but they definitely had that instinct to help," Villegas said. Fousek and Tomasini were arrested at 1 a.m. Wednesday at their home. Officers said the couple appeared high on methamphetamine and the house was in disarray. A police report also claimed that Tomasini told Child Protective Services, who took the baby, that she had breast-fed the infant while under the influence, Villegas said.

Obama stresses no discord with Petraeus on board

WASHINGTON (AP)—No more discord in the Afghanistan war command, President Barack Obama vows. With Gen. David Petraeus in charge, the president said Thursday he's assembled the team that will take the U.S. through the months ahead—by all expectations the make-or-break stage of the conflict.

"I am going to be insisting on a unity of purpose on the part of all branches of the U.S. government," the president said. "Our team is going to be moving forward in synch."

Obama said he does not anticipate further firings beyond Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top war commander hired a year ago to turn around a war then sliding into quagmire. He was fired Wednesday for sniping at civilian war bosses in a magazine article.

"I'm paying very close attention," Obama said of his war council. "And I will be insisting on extraordinary performance moving forward."

The Taliban-led insurgency has dug in for a long fight in crucial southern Afghan provinces where McChrystal focused the conflict. Petraeus is expected to continue that campaign, but he will have flexibility to make changes as he sees fit, his civilian and military bosses said Thursday.

"When he gets on the ground, he will assess the situation for himself, and at some point he will make recommendations to the president," Defense Secretary Robert Gates said. "At the end of the day, the president will decide whether changes are to be made in the strategy."

Both in Washington and Kabul, U.S. officials tried to stay on-message, insisting that the sudden sacking of McChrystal does not reveal a crisis of confidence in a war that Gates asserted is no longer a stalemate.

"I do not believe we are bogged down," Gates said. "I believe we are making some progress. It is slower and harder than we anticipated."

Obama and his top security advisers also underscored that U.S. forces will begin to come home from Afghanistan next summer, and that the commander taking over for the disgraced McChrystal is pledged to that timetable.

Latest blunder feeds frustration in the Gulf

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Earlier this month, BP boldly predicted the oil gushing from the bottom of the sea would be reduced to a "relative trickle" within days, and President Barack Obama told the nation last week that as much as 90 percent would soon be captured. But those goals seemed wildly optimistic Thursday after yet another setback a mile underwater.

A deep-sea robot bumped into the cap collecting oil from the well, forcing a temporary halt Wednesday to the company's best effort yet to contain the leak. The cap was back in place Thursday, but frustration and skepticism were running high along the Gulf Coast.

BP's pronouncements have "absolutely no credibility," Jefferson Parish Councilman John Young said. The latest problem shows "they really are not up to the task and we have more bad news than we have good news."

Even before the latest setback, the government's worst-case estimates suggested the cap and other equipment were capturing less than half of the oil leaking from the sea floor. And in recent days, the "spillcam" video continued to show gas and oil billowing from the blown-out well.

BP officials said they sympathized, and laid out in new detail the company's plans to have additional ships in place that can capture even more oil.

"For BP, our intent is to restore the Gulf the way it was before it happened," BP PLC managing director Bob Dudley, who has taken over the company's spill operations, said in Washington.

ACROSS THE NATION

Pet turtle causes taxiing plane to return to gate

ATLANTA (AP)—A caged, 2-inch turtle traveling with a 10-year-old girl caused a crew to turn around a taxiing plane, take the girl and her sisters off the flight and tell them they couldn't bring their pet along. The sisters threw the animal and cage in the trash and returned to their seats crying Tuesday after AirTran Airways employees on the jetway said they couldn't care for the turtle while their father drove to retrieve it. Two days later, however, Carley Helm was reunited with Neytiri even though at first the family thought the pet was emptied with the trash. Carley was heading home to Milwaukee after visiting her father in Atlanta with sisters Annie, 13, and Rebecca, 22, when the flap unfolded. Rebecca said the three were led onto the jetway and told they'd have to get rid of the baby red ear slider—named Neytiri after the princess in the movie "Avatar"—if they wanted to reboard.

Indiana woman tries to snatch baby, stabs parents

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (AP)—Stephanie Foster wanted a baby so badly that when she suffered another miscarriage last fall, she didn't tell her husband. Instead, police say Foster, 34, spent months stuffing a pillow inside her clothes to feign pregnancy, forging birth certificates and attending baby showers as she plotted to kidnap a newborn to pass off as her own. "She didn't want to tell her husband because he was so elated that they finally were going to have a child," Vigo County Sheriff Jon Marvel said. When her husband asked to feel the baby move, Foster would jostle a paintbrush she'd slipped inside the pillow, Marvel said. Police say Foster's elaborate hoax ended violently Wednesday when she stabbed a couple at their home as their month-old baby slept in the living room. Now, the baby is staying with relatives while his parents recover, and Foster sits in a county jail cell awaiting formal charges.

Jamaican gang leader arrives to face NY charges

NEW YORK (AP)—Following bloodshed over his capture, Jamaican gang leader Christopher "Dudus" Coke arrived in New York under tight security on Thursday to face charges he flooded the East Coast with shipments of cocaine and marijuana, authorities said. Drug Enforcement Administration agents brought Coke by plane to an airport in suburban White Plains, N.Y., hours after he waived his right to extradition in Jamaica. He was expected to be taken to a federal lockup in lower Manhattan to await arraignment on Friday. In agreeing to leave Jamaica without a legal fight, Coke said he was saddened by the 76 lives lost in street clashes between fiercely loyal supporters and security forces in his power base in Tivoli Gardens slum. He said he hopes his decision will help Jamaica heal.

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Asia

Divided Koreas remember start of Korean War

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The two Koreas commemorated the anniversary Friday of the outbreak of the Korean War, promoting vastly different views of the origins of the conflict that still divides their peninsula a full six decades later.

The war started in the early hours of June 25, 1950, with an attack by North Korean troops. The Korean peninsula had been divided in 1945 after colonial ruler Japan's defeat in World War II.

The United States and 15 other countries sent troops to aid South Korea under the fledgling United Nations, while Chinese soldiers came in to fight with the North. Three years of combat left both sides in ruins. The fighting ended with an armistice, not a permanent peace treaty, leaving the peninsula in a technical state of war.

In Seoul, South Korea held an official ceremony to remember the war, widely known as "6/25" for the date it began. South Korean President Lee Myung-bak presented representatives of countries that sent soldiers or supplies to aid the war effort with plaques of appreciation.

"Sixty years ago today, North Korea's communists opened fire on all fronts of the 38th parallel on a weekend's dawn when all people were sleeping peacefully," Lee said in a speech. The gathering was attended by South Korean and foreign veterans of the conflict, foreign ambassadors and currently serving South Korean and U.S. soldiers. The U.S. stations about 28,500 soldiers in South Korea as a deterrent against North Korea.

North Korea's view of the conflict, which it calls the Fatherland Liberation War, is vastly different. Under the headline "U.S., Provoker of Korean War," the country's state news agency on Tuesday accused Washington of starting it with a surprise attack.

US ambassador to Afghanistan: Time to move on

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan on Thursday acknowledged having "vigorous debates" behind closed doors with Gen. Stanley McChrystal, but said he and the ousted NATO commander acted in synch to implement war strategy.

"Stan and I have known each other for a very long time, and worked shoulder-to-shoulder here together under very difficult circumstances over this past year. He was an excellent partner," Ambassador Karl Eikenberry told a group of Afghan reporters.

Eikenberry has clashed with NATO headquarters over the direction of the war. When a cable in which Eikenberry strongly questioned the wisdom of sending tens of thousands more U.S. troops to the war leaked to the media late last year, his relationship with McChrystal became especially strained.

In a Rolling Stone magazine story that led to McChrystal's dismissal, the commander said he felt betrayed by the leak. McChrystal accused Eikenberry of giving himself political cover in case the U.S. military buildup didn't succeed.

"Now if we fail, they can say, `I told you so,'" the magazine quoted McChrystal as saying. The general later called Eikenberry to apologize.

Workers begin repairing dikes after China's floods

BEIJING (AP)—Workers and soldiers began repairing two breached areas on a river Friday after widespread flooding killed more than 200 people and caused $6.4 billion in damages across southern China.

Rescuers worked along on the Fuhe river near Fuzhou city in Jiangxi province, said a report posted on the Jiangxi Flood Control Headquarters website, days after it breached its banks and a dike on another portion of the river burst, forcing the evacuation of 100,000 people.

Thousands of soldiers and workers transported stones and sandbags to block and redirect water flows, with the goal of patching up the breach within the next week, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

But more torrential rains are expected for the southern regions of Guizhou, Hunan, Jiangxi, Zhejiang, Fujian, and Guangxi, Xinhua reported, threatening to hamper rescue efforts that have seen a total of 2.4 million people evacuated from their homes.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao is in Fuzhou to rally rescuers and comfort victims, wearing galoshes and wading through floodwaters in the disaster area, according to footage aired on China Central Television.

"You are not afraid of sacrifice and in 48 hours, managed to rescue 100,000 people without a single casualty," Wen told paramilitary troops, speaking into a bullhorn shielded with an orange plastic bag. "You have created a miracle in history."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Malaysia bans political cartoons critical of gov't

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia banned three works of political cartoons that criticize the government, but one of the artists said Friday he was obligated to highlight issues other cartoonists would not. The government said the cartoons in two books and a magazine posed a security threat. Malaysia has banned dozens of publications in recent years, but usually because of sexual content or alleged misrepresentation of Islam, its official religion. But the latest ban is certain to spark complaints that the government is disallowing critical views. "All three publications have been banned for their contents that can influence the people to revolt against the leaders and government policies," said a statement by Home Ministry Secretary General Mahmood Adam on the official news agency Bernama. "The contents are not suitable and detrimental to public order," he said without elaborating.

Swiss pleads guilty to spraying Singapore graffiti

SINGAPORE (AP)—A Swiss man pleaded guilty Friday to spray-painting graffiti on a Singapore subway car and could be caned as punishment. Oliver Fricker, 32, pleaded guilty to one count each of vandalism and trespassing for breaking into a train depot and drawing graffiti on a subway car on May 16. Prosecutors dropped a second vandalism charge but submitted it to the judge for consideration in Fricker's sentencing, which is scheduled for later Friday. Fricker and his lawyer, Derek Kang, did not speak to reporters at the courthouse. Vandalism in Singapore carries a fine of up to 2,000 Singapore dollars ($1,437) or up to three years in jail, in addition to three to eight strokes of a cane.

Drug cases shoot up 16 percent last year in China

BEIJING (AP)—China says drug cases shot up 16 percent last year from 2008 with courts convicting more than 56,000 people. Chinese courts handled more than 50,000 drug trafficking cases in 2009 and about 17,000 people received severe sentences—from five years in prison to a death sentence—up almost 9 percent from the year before, the Supreme People's Court said Thursday. Police seized nearly 28 tons of drugs last year, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Friday. Saturday is the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, and China kicked up its state-run propaganda machine to show it is tackling drug abuse, a growing problem in the country.

World

Spain blames victims in train crash that killed 13

CASTELLDEFELS, Spain (AP)—Spanish officials blamed summer solstice partygoers for crossing the tracks into the path of an express train that killed at least 13, but others said a new underground exit was poorly marked and an old crossing was blocked off, leaving travelers confused.

AP

Police and rescue workers inspect the Castelldefels Playa station where a high-speed train passing through the station struck a group of people crossing the tracks, in Castelldefels, Spain, Thursday, June 24, 2010.

In addition to the dead, at least 14 were injured in the beach resort of Castelldefels, south of Barcelona, shortly before midnight Wednesday as crowds of young people left a train heading for bonfires on a Mediterranean beach. Many jammed the underpass leading to the beach, but about 30 others climbed down from the platform and tried to scurry across the tracks.

They were struck and mangled by a train barreling through the station in northeastern Spain.

Development Minister Jose Blanco on Thursday denied claims the underpass was poorly marked, and insisted that passengers should have known that "you never, never, never cross the tracks."

"Everything pointed to negligence," Blanco added, saying he hoped the tragedy would make riders understand that they must obey station rules.

But Arrellano Ruiz, the Ecuadorean consul in Barcelona, said passengers did not see the signs for the underpass exit and mistakenly headed to an overpass that had been closed since a 2009 renovation.

Victor Morlan, Spain's infrastructure secretary, acknowledged that the overpass has been blocked off since last year but insisted there were enough signs telling passengers how to safely reach the beach.

"It had a sign system that was well made and it had a loudspeaker service that pointed out that the tracks must not be crossed," Morlan said.

The express train also sounded a warning signal as it approached.

Most of the victims were Latin American, but authorities did not identify them or release a breakdown of their nationalities.

Arrest near G-20 summit site

TORONTO (AP)—Police on heightened alert before a summit of world leaders stopped a car with a large container strapped to its roof and arrested the driver after finding gasoline canisters, a chainsaw, a cross bow, arrows and sledge hammers inside.

The vehicle was flagged because it looked suspicious and unsafe, police said, but there was no evidence that the car was related to the arrival of dignitaries this weekend in Canada's largest city.

"There's quite a various amount of items that, used by the wrong person at the wrong time, was enough that we made the arrest," said police Const. Hugh Smith, after the arrest.

Leaders of the world's major industrial countries, representing 85 percent of the global economy, will meet in Canada starting Friday for economic summits of the Group of Eight and G-20 nations.

The G-8 summit of large industrial nations begins Friday in Huntsville, Ontario, three hours north of Toronto. It is followed on Saturday and Sunday by the G-20 summit, which brings leaders of an influential grouping of both rich and developing nations to central Toronto.

In preparation, Toronto's downtown resembles a fortress with thousands of police. A big steel and concrete fence surrounds several blocks around the summit site. About 19,000 security personnel are on duty for the summits.

Thursday's arrest was the third ahead of the meeting this week. In another incident, a man and woman were charged with possession of explosives, but authorities said there is no risk to public safety.

WORLD BRIEFS

Rights group criticizes Hamas treatment of Israeli

JERUSALEM (AP)—The U.S.-based group Human Rights Watch says Hamas militants are violating the rules of war by prohibiting a captive Israeli soldier from having contact with his family and the Red Cross. Human Rights Watch says the treatment of the 23-year-old soldier is "cruel and inhuman" and matches a U.N. definition of torture because he is denied any outside contact. Hamas militants captured tank crewman Gilad Schalit inside Israel four years ago and have been holding him in Gaza since then. Negotiations over a deal that would see Israel release hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in return for Schalit have stalled.

Dubai's ambitions soar with new airport

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—In the desert beyond the skeletons of villas unfinished because of Dubai's economic slump, the home of the tallest building is preparing to open what could become another record-setter: an airport aiming to become the world's busiest. Civic boosters envision Dubai World Central-Al Maktoum International, set to open Sunday, as one day growing into a mammoth transit hub of five parallel runways that could trump Atlanta's airport for the No. 1 spot. Where camels now graze, they see up to four terminals handling more travelers than the world's No. 2 and 3 airports—Chicago's O'Hare and London's Heathrow—combined. Big ambitions die hard here. Yet the airport and surrounding development—with a projected price tag of more than $32 billion—are a gamble for a city-state whose soaring aspirations have been eclipsed by its struggle to pay for them.

Venezuela captures drug suspect wanted by US

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela has captured a suspected Colombian drug smuggler who is wanted on cocaine charges in the United States and who has allegedly collaborated with Mexico's Zetas drug gang, the justice minister said Thursday. Tareck El Aissami held up the arrest of Luis Frank Tello Candelo, 47, better known as "El Negro Frank," as proof of Venezuela's determination to combat organized crime and drug trafficking. Officials at the U.S. Embassy in Caracas did not immediately answer telephone calls seeking comment.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, June 26, 2010

CNMI's Filipinos hopeful about Noynoy administration

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Expectations are flying high as Filipinos on Saipan join their *kababayans* back home in counting down the days until the inaugural ceremony for the 15th president of the Republic of the Philippines.

Thousands of Filipinos are expected to witness Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III take his oath of office before Supreme Court Justice Conchita Carpio Morales at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila Wednesday noon (2pm local time).

Outgoing President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo issued Proclamation No. 2085 declaring inauguration day, June 30, as a nonworking holiday so that Filipinos can take part in the historic event.

Aquino made history after winning in the last national election against formidable opponents, including real estate tycoon Sen. Manny Villar, former President Joseph Estrada, and administration candidate Gilberto Teodoro Jr.

The only son of former President Corazon Cojuangco Aquino and martyred former senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., Aquino won by landslide in the absentee voting election held in the CNMI, garnering 2,297 votes out of the 3,341 total number of ballots.

On Wednesday, Aquino will officially replace embattled outgoing President Arroyo. He will be joined by Vice President-elect Jejomar Binay.

Aquino's victory in the last May election was a glimmer of hope for a country beleaguered by controversies that surrounded the outgoing administration.

With only a few days to go before the inaugural ceremony, members of the Filipino community on Saipan have expressed high hopes for its incoming leader, who vows to fight corruption in his six-year term.

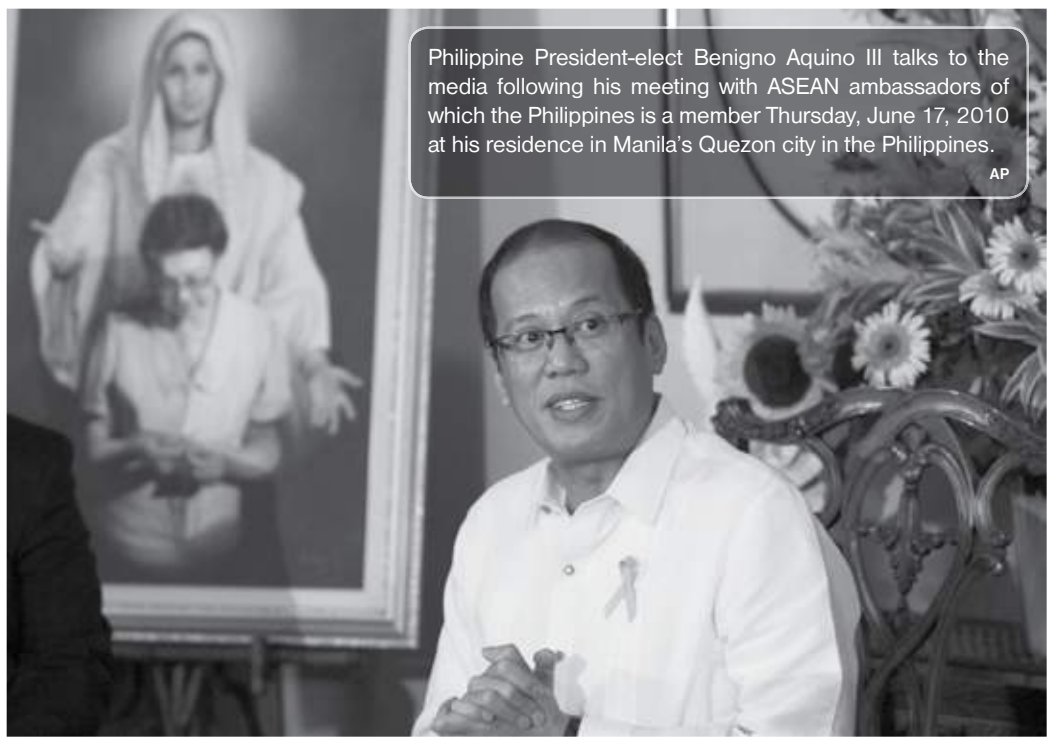
United Filipino Organization president Olive Yana told *Saipan Tribune* she expects Aquino to honor his promise of an honest and good government and make the lives of every Filipino better.

Malou Lambat, a supervisor at Pacific Quick Print, said she firmly believes in Aquino's leadership skills.

Lambat reckons that since Aquino has his parents' reputations on the line, he will do everything in his power not to dishonor their legacies. "Many people are keeping an eye on him," she said.

Lambat said the incoming administration should have education and health as their top priorities. She wants to see more school facilities for students and higher wages for teachers, nurses and doctors in the country.

Rowena Velasco, a Garapan resident, is pleased about the results of the May election. Velasco voted for Aquino and Binay.



Philippine President-elect Benigno Aquino III talks to the media following his meeting with ASEAN ambassadors of which the Philippines is a member Thursday, June 17, 2010 at his residence in Manila's Quezon city in the Philippines. AP

Velasco said she voted for candidates who have proven track records as elected officials. While she chose Aquino for his corruption-free service record, Velasco picked out Binay because of his accomplishments as former mayor of Makati City, the country's financial heartland.

Velasco added that the Aquino administration should initially address the problem of unemployment in the Philippines. "If people have jobs, they can afford education and there would be fewer crimes," she said.

Eden Albior of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino considers Aquino's triumph as the beginning of many changes in the current state of government.

Although she thinks the Aquino-Roxas tandem the better pair, Albior remains confident that Aquino and Binay would also do well because they will share ideas for the good of the country.

Jose Carlos Sula, 62, also voted for the Aquino-Roxas team up because of the great history of their families. Sen. Manuel Roxas II, Aquino's losing vice presidential bet, is the son of former senator Gerry Roxas and grandson of former President Manuel Roxas.

But Sula, a mechanic at MJ Auto Shop, believes that Binay can do a lot for the Aquino administration, given his achievements for the city of Makati. "I hope he doesn't oppose Noynoy. I hope they work together," he said.

'No changes'

With only a few days to go before the new administration takes over, Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig said there will be no changes with the Consulate General on Saipan.

Macaraig said that as career officers, they do their jobs regardless of who is in the position.

"As a consulate, our purpose is [being here for the] Filipino community and monitoring opportunities for the Philippines and CNMI," he said.

Macaraig pointed out that should there be any changes in the future, it will probably be about the new set of Cabinet members for the Aquino administration and the new policies they might implement.

"We are prepared to submit reports in regards to the Filipino community on Saipan," he said.

Macaraig said he joins Filipinos in welcoming the Aquino administration. "His pronouncement to eradicate corruption is something to look forward to," he said.

Macaraig hopes that the Aquino administration would not have to encounter grave natural calamities so it can focus on the real issues at hand.

When asked if the Aquino-Binay match would affect the administration's performance, Macaraig trusts that it would not be a problem now as it has not been in the past. "It will actually enhance our democracy because there are differing viewpoints," he said.

Macaraig reminds Filipinos in the CNMI that the Consulate office will observe a nonworking holiday on Wednesday.

RP Consulate shifts to ePassports tomorrow

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Starting tomorrow, June 27, Filipinos in the Northern Mariana Islands who will renew their passports that are about to expire or apply for a new passport at the Philippine Consulate General's office will be issued the new ePassport.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig told *Saipan Tribune* this week that the Consulate will stop issuing Machine Readable Passports (maroon passports) after Friday.

Macaraig said the ePassport aims to lessen the inconvenience that the old passports caused. However, he emphasized that those who are still holding the MRPs and the Machine Readable-Ready Passports (green passports) need not worry as these are still valid until expiration date.

Macaraig confirmed that Jun Solano of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila was on Saipan from June 18 to 22 to help set up the system and put it to the test.

Solano also updated the software to reflect the changes recommended by Consulate officials, including Macaraig, who attended the ePassport seminar in Manila last May.

According to Macaraig, the ePassport has security features that were lacking in the MRPs. He said the ePassport has an integrated circuit chip at the back cover that guarantees authenticity. The ePassport conforms to the highest security standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

He also said the requirements for the ePassport are the same as the MRPs except that applicants do not need to submit passport-sized photograph. Applicants will have to undergo biometrics, with the Consulate taking the applicant's photograph, thumbmarks, and signature.

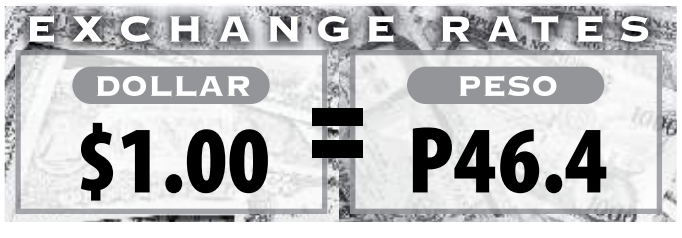
The ePassport fee is $60.

Macaraig said they tested the system on Monday and got a confirmation on the same day that the information for the test passport application was successfully transmitted to the DFA's printing facility.

The waiting time for those who apply for ePassports is the same as MRPs, which is four to six weeks.

Filipino workers on Tinian and Rota who wish to renew their passports or avail of the ePassports have to travel to Saipan as the system is only available here.

Macaraig urges all Filipinos on Saipan to renew their passport at least six months before it expires to avoid any delays.



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Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 234-5548

Petitioner Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF Noelani Lea Baulechong Name Change, Petitioner, Noelani Lea Baulechong Sutton	FCD CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0185 NOTICE OF HEARING

Noelani Lea Baulechong Sutton petitioned the Court for an order legally changing her name from Noelani Lea Baulechong Sutton to Noelani Lea Baulechong.

Please take notice that a hearing in this matter will be held on the 7th day of July, 2010 at 9:00 A.M. at the Commonwealth Superior Court on Saipan, CNMI Courtroom 205A for the purpose therein set forth.

/s/ Clerk of the Above - Entitled Court

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Maguindanao massacre witness killed

» Ex-militiaman didn't get protection from DoJ

By INQUIRER MINDANAO, JEROME ANING
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

COTABATO CITY — A former militiaman who failed to get protection from the justice department after he tagged the powerful Ampatuan clan as being responsible for the Maguindanao massacre has been felled by an assassin's bullet.

Six months and two weeks after he first appeared on television with his face hidden behind a mask to talk about the massacre, Suwaib Upham was gunned down by a lone attacker on June 14 in Parang town, Maguindanao province, some 100 kilometers from where the carnage occurred.

It was only on Thursday following media inquiries—or more than a week after the shooting first appeared on the town police blotter—that official information on Upham's killing came.

■ ■ ■ ■

MANILA, Philippines—A lawyer of the powerful Ampatuan clan insisted Friday that his clients were not in any way involved in the killing last week of a key witness in the Maguindanao massacre.

"Definitely, no. They have nothing to do with [the] killing of a man in Parang," Lawyer Philip Pantojan told reporters at a press conference in Makati City.

He said he only learned about the killing of witness Suwaib Upham, also known as Jesse, through the newspapers on his flight from Davao to Manila.

"We will study this. The Ampatuans will join the government in the speedy investigation of this case," Pantojan said.

He said they were studying every killing related to the Ampatuan case. ***(Niña Calleja/ Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

■ ■ ■ ■

Philippine Daily Inquirer informants in Maguindanao said Upham—believed to be in his 20s—had been moving from one place to another to avoid coming to harm after agreeing to testify against the Ampatuan clan.

Centerlaw Philippines, which assists families of 14 of the massacre victims, laid the blame for Upham's death on acting Justice Secretary Alberto Agra and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for not supposedly giving any protection to the witness.

His death was recorded on the police blotter as just another case of killing. There was no mention on the blotter of him being a massacre witness.

Upham, a member of the disbanded Ampatuan militia, was shot dead at around 8 p.m.

"The gunman remained unidentified and the motive was still unclear. We are still determining the real motive of the attack," Senior Supt. Alex Lineses, Maguindanao police chief, told reporters.

Police have apparently made no arrests.

In an interview on Nov. 28 with a correspondent from the Arabic Al Jazeera news channel, the masked Upham—who identified himself then as "Boy"—said he was promised money to take part in the massacre and that he feared for himself and his family.

In March, in an interview in Metro Manila with the Inquirer and several other media groups, Upham—who had by then changed his alias to "Jesse" (as he spelled it)—said the massacre was carried out by about 200 armed men allegedly led by then Datu Unsay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr.

Harry Roque, one of the lawyers for the relatives of the massacre victims, described Upham as one of the most crucial witnesses in the murder cases filed against members of the Ampatuan family and their armed followers.

Fifty-seven people were slaughtered on Nov. 23 last year in what is believed to be one of the country's worst political massacres. The victims included members of a rival political clan and 32 media workers.

'Blood in their hands'

"There is blood in Agra and Ms Arroyo's hands. May they forever by haunted by the souls of Jesse and the rest of the victims of the massacre," the group said in a statement.

Centerlaw said Upham surfaced in March and applied for admission to the Witness Protection Program of the Department of Justice.

"He was never interviewed by the DoJ despite having previously arranged twice to be interviewed by a panel from the department. In both instances, the department agreed on the time and date of the interview at a venue to be selected by 'Jesse.' That initial and first interview was scheduled in the office and in the presence of CHR (Commission on Human Rights) Chair Leila de Lima," the law group said.

But it said personnel from the WPP did not appear on the agreed time and date and stated instead that "Jesse" should appear "in the premises of the DoJ."

Centerlaw said Upham refused to appear at the DoJ because he "had information that high-ranking officials of the Department were working with the Ampatuans."

P4-M bounty

Roque, of Centerlaw, said in an interview that Upham told him in April after the two botched meetings with the DoJ that he wanted to return to Maguindanao.

"By this time we were running out of resources, so he left," Roque said, adding that he kept in touch with Upham while the latter was in Maguindanao.

Roque said he also found out that a P4-million bounty had been put up on Upham's head by some people.

"There were even posters around Maguindanao with his face and the bounty on it," he said. Roque also said that before his death, Upham had planned to return to Manila.

"He thought that with a new president ready to assume power, he might have a better chance to get into the Witness Protection Program."

Roque said the death of Upham was a big blow to the case against the Ampatuans.

"We lost a very strong witness. We had a witness who participated in the massacre, who saw everything from beginning to end."

But Roque also said he was confident more witnesses in the case would come out once the Aquino administration came into power and with CHR Chief Leila de Lima at the head of the DoJ.

Worst possible message

Asked for comment on the killing of Upham, the Ampatuans' lawyer Philip Sigfrid Fortun said in a text message: "He is not listed as a witness. Not every policeman or civilian killed in Maguindanao is a witness to the massacre."

Fortun declined further comment.

Gov't did nothing

The New York-based Human Rights Watch urged the National Bureau of Investigation to immediately investigate the Upham killing.

"Massacre witnesses are dying while the government sits on its hands," Elaine Pearson, acting Asia director of Human Rights Watch," said in a statement.

Pearson said "Upham took enormous personal risks by agreeing to testify against Ampatuan family members, yet the government, knowing full well he was in danger, did nothing. This sends the worst possible message to other witnesses thinking of coming forward."

Upham's killing came two months after an uncle of another witness was also shot and killed in what authorities said was part of a plan to intimidate those speaking out against the Ampatuan family.

Agra's side

A total of 197 people are charged with murder in the case, including 29 members of the Ampatuan family.

Sixty-two of those charged are in detention, including seven members of the Ampatuan clan. They include former Gov. Andal Ampatuan Sr., his son Andal Jr., and ex-Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan.

Secretary Agra, in a statement, said Roque never brought Upham to the DoJ for an interview and evaluation of fiscals handling the case, adding, "So how can that person (Upham) be placed under the WPP?"

FEAST OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST AP

Revelers douse a coconut vendor with water as he passes during the celebration of the feast of Saint John The Baptist, Thursday, June 24, 2010, in San Juan City, east of Manila, Philippines.

Bank service fee lifted for OFW remittances

By MICHELLE REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has approved the lifting for six months of the service fee that banks pay to facilitate remittances from Filipinos overseas using the central bank's Philpass system.

The move will reduce the cost of sending and receiving remittances, something that is consistent with the goal of encouraging remittances through formal channels, said Bangko Sentral Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

Philpass is the electronic clearing system for interbank transactions, such as check payments and transactions between banks and the BSP.

In December last year, the central bank and industry members signed an agreement allowing the use of the system to facilitate remittances starting this year.

Before the service fee was waived, each transaction involving money transfers using Philpass was charged a fixed amount of P50.

The decision to waive the fee for six months was made during the meeting of the BSP Monetary Board last week.

"The Monetary Board has approved the waiver for six months. This will help enable banks to lower their remittances fees," Tetangco said over the weekend.

Under the agreement between the BSP and industry members, a bank that receives a remittance from abroad shall use the central bank's Philpass system to electronically transfer the money to another bank, which is closer to where the beneficiary lives.

Costly courier service

Before the signing of the agreement, many banks transfer money to another bank through courier service, which Tetangco said was much costlier and required more time for settlement than electronic means.

The use of the Philpass system has also made the money transfers much less costly. Previously, banks were paying a fee ranging from P100 to P550, depending on the amount of remittance, to facilitate remittances.

Tetangco said that with the lower cost, more Filipinos working and living abroad would be encouraged to use the banking system rather than informal channels to send money to their families and other beneficiaries.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

An expatriate Filipino writes of a parallel life

By JOYCE HOR-CHUNG LAU
THE NEW YORK TIMES

HONG KONG—The story begins with the death of Crispin Salvador, an expatriate Filipino author living in New York, whose body is found floating in the Hudson River. He had been scathingly critical of his home country before his mysterious demise.

It is part of a novel, a satire of the chaos and violence of Philippine politics called *Ilustrado*, the first book by Miguel Syjuco, an expatriate Filipino author living in Montreal. And—if the book was not clear enough in its theme that art reflects life—the fictional narrator and Salvador's protégé is also named Miguel Syjuco.

The real-life Syjuco, a dapper 33-year-old, has been promoting *Ilustrado*, which won the 2008 Man Asian Literary Prize, on a tour through the United States and Britain, where it will be released in coming months.

Sipping tea amid the wood paneling of the Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents Club—in a camel blazer with matching red pocket square and red cuff links—he looked the part of a gentleman from a good Philippine family. Syjuco, who once held entry-level jobs at The New Yorker and other magazines before deciding to devote himself full time to writing, is clearly from the educated upper classes that he skewers in his book.

"My family, my friends, my colleagues—we are the elites," he said. "We are a wealthy, beautiful country, and we've screwed it up so badly. The majority of wealth is controlled by a minority. And we don't know when enough is enough. The elite don't want one mansion; they want three."

Like his fictional counterpart in the book, Syjuco came from a political family but declined to enter the business himself.

His real-life father, Augusto Syjuco Jr., known as Boboy, stepped down from a cabinet post in the government of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to run for Congress in national elections on Monday. So far, nearly three dozen people have been killed in attacks linked to those elections. While Syjuco is disparaging of the violence, he says he is not overly worried about his father.

NEW YORK TIMES

Miguel Syjuco, an expatriate Filipino author living in Montreal, has been promoting his book, *Ilustrado*, which won the 2008 Man Asian Literary Prize, on a tour through the United States and Britain, where it will be released in coming months.

"He knows what he's doing," Syjuco said. "He's with Gloria Arroyo—in her party. He is entrenched in his district, and he has his bodyguards. So he is more protected than candidates from grass-roots parties."

Syjuco said he did not want to draw too close a comparison between his own life and the book, but the parallels—the fictional Miguel Syjuco, an orphan, disappoints his doting grandparents when he fails to live up to their political ambitions—are obvious.

"My dad wanted me to be a lawyer, a politician, the president of his country," Syjuco said. "I have two sisters and three brothers, and not a politician among any of them. I was my dad's great last hope."

Syjuco was unheard of before *Ilustrado* won the Man Asian Literary Prize, which shares a sponsor with the Man Booker Prize and recognizes the best Asian novel written or translated into English. Outside of the Philippines, he could not even get short stories published in journals.

"I got rejected left and right," he said. "I wallpapered my wall with rejection slips, the way F. Scott Fitzgerald was said to have done."

In fact, when *Ilustrado* won the award, it was still an unedited draft with no publisher.

Understandably, Syjuco had almost no expectation of winning. "I just wanted to get on the long list so agents would pay attention to me," he said.

"I remember sitting in front of my computer, waiting for midnight—since the long list would be announced at that moment—and hitting the refresh button over and over. I did the same thing when the short list was announced. When I flew out to Hong Kong for the awards dinner, I thought I'd just eat a lot of Chinese food and get drunk."

Miguel Syjuco was born in the Philippines to a Chinese-Filipino father and a Spanish-Filipino mother, into a family whose wealth was anchored in a soft-drink bottling company.

His parents moved abroad during the Marcos era, and Syjuco spent much of his childhood in Vancouver, British Columbia. "The first thing I wrote was in grade five. I tried to write a sequel to 'Lord of the Rings,' " he said.

He returned to the Philippines for high school and college and, as he says, "got onto the right path when I flunked out of economics in university."

He and some friends put together Local Vibe, an entertainment Web site. But he could not free himself of family ties and expectations, so he decided to move back overseas.

He knocked around the United States, Canada and Australia, studying, writing and trying to stay financially afloat. He had entry-level jobs at The New Yorker, Esquire and The Paris Review, and earned a master's degree in creative writing from Columbia University. He is finishing a Ph.D. at the University of Adelaide, in Australia.

Ilustrado starts off as a murder mystery. When Salvador dies, the draft of a politically biting masterpiece he had been working on disappears. The book then moves into what are, for the Philippines, complicated and interwoven issues of sex and poverty, migration and work, religion and governance.

Its short chapters come in a cacophony of fonts and voices. There are excerpts from the two main characters' own writing, plus e-mail messages, newspaper articles, blog comments, flashbacks and dream sequences.

The style is postmodern (or, as some prefix-happy critics call it, post-postmodern) right down to the faux footnotes. The novel is short, sharp and funny, though some critics have called it overwritten. ("Yet it was the internecine intensities of the local literati that gossiped Salvador's life into chimerical proportions.")

"I don't particularly like the postmodern tag," Syjuco said. "It's a novel of today, a contemporary novel. The way we consume information is fragmented."

Syjuco explained that *Ilustrado*, which means "enlightened" in Spanish, refers to a period in the late 1800s when the Philippines was a Spanish colony and Filipinos traveled to Europe to be educated in the arts, sciences and politics.

"These young men, the 'enlightened,' returned home to aid in the 1896 revolution that ousted Spanish control," Syjuco said. "There are 8.1 million Filipinos abroad now. They have the potential to be the new 'ilustrado' class. But of those 8.1 million, only 500,000 are registered to vote in the upcoming elections. Maybe they have turned their back on the democratic process."

Syjuco, who has already sold a second book to a North American publisher, identifies himself as a Filipino author but says that overseas life gave him the distance needed to see his country's problems.

"I don't know if I could have written this if I had stayed in the Philippines," he said.

He declined to predict what would happen in the coming elections.

"My book asks some tough questions, but it's not the Great Philippine Novel," he said. "I'm 33. I don't have all the answers. If I did, I'd be running for president."

Greta promises Derek she'll behave while he's in Africa

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Gretchen Barretto said she made a promise to her "Magkaribal" costar Derek Ramsay before the latter went to South Africa for a month-long vacation—with his girlfriend.

"I told him, 'I promise not to talk about you when you're not here,'" Gretchen told show biz writers during the media launch of "Magkaribal," her first drama series on ABS-CBN. "So I will just bore you. I'm a good girl now."

In an earlier interview, Derek's girlfriend, Angelica Panganiban, took offense after Gretchen said she would like to see Derek's "solo pictures" post-vacation.

"'Yung humor ko, kakaiba kasi talaga," Gretchen explained. "I try to be witty to please interviewers. Now, I'm more guarded."

The actress said she is currently focused on making the cast and crew of "Magkaribal" comfortable around her. "People have this wrong impression of me because of the clothes and other expensive things I own," Gretchen said. "Such things should not be the basis of whether a person is good or bad."

Gretchen arrived at last week's press con in a cream-colored Monique Lhuillier dress, Christian Louboutin high-heels and a long string of pearls from Jewelmer. The event, set for 6 p.m., started two hours late. Red carpet was rolled out at the 9501 Restaurant inside the ABS-CBN Compound in Quezon City.

Gretchen said her long-time partner, businessman Tonyboy Cojuangco, and daughter Dominique do not like her long working hours. "They sometimes complain, but they know this is what I want," said Gretchen.

"Once, I came home late and complained about being very tired. Tonyboy said, 'Choice mo 'yan, di ba?'"

"Magkaribal" premieres June 28 on the Primetime Bida time slot.

Daniel Matsunaga bares all in a candid talk

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Interviewing Brazilian-Japanese models is like a sugar rush—sweet and potentially addicting, a guilty pleasure. Is it also full of harmful calories?

What it is these days is de rigueur, as Akihiro Sato, Fabio Ide and Daniel Matsunaga are local show biz's hunks du jour.

Among the three, Daniel seems to be the hottest and busiest, juggling two GMA 7 shows (the nightly soap "Langit sa Piling Mo," with Heart Evangelista and the weekly "Love Bug: Wish Come True" with Kris Bernal).

He's taking a virtual crash course in local show biz, as he's constantly barraged with questions on possible love affairs with Kris and Heart.

He'd dutifully describe Kris as "lovely" and Heart as "beautiful"—like a tired refrain.

Before he falls into the trap of inane show biz buzz words, an intervention is in order.

At the press launch of "Love Bug," intrepid reporters dared ask about his nude photos on the Internet. His handlers, shaking their heads and frantically waving their hands, scrambled to shush up the inquisitors.

Brazilian-Japanese model/actor Daniel Matsunaga.

But it's a question that needs to be asked and can present Daniel in a different light—that he's no mindless robot.

True enough, Daniel rose to the occasion. In a calm and even voice, he tactfully explained: "Those photos were taken in 2005. I was very young then. Only 16."

That he was underage makes the nude photos all the more an iffy subject, he noted. "I didn't know any better when people, like the photographer, push you for a job. They shouldn't do that kind of stuff [to young people]. That's super bad. I have no [further] comment … I'm sorry."

Doing low-budget films now take a backseat, he admitted. "Sometimes you have to choose and my schedule right now is pretty hectic."

Still, he conceded that acting in the indie "D' Survivors" was an enriching experience in other ways. "I learned a lot from my director, Adolf Alix," he recalled.

He loves everything about the Philippines where he's been based for the past year. "I love the weather, the girls, the food. I love chicken adobo."

He draws the line on balut, though. "Maybe one day I will try it. But I'm scared," he quipped.

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Open arms

Our Asian neighbors have embraced both foreign students and foreign institutions of higher learning, on principles similar to that followed by the People's Republic of China in welcoming foreign investments: it's a means for accelerating technology transfer. Filipinos are, of course, familiar with the benefits of exposure to education abroad. It was the means by which the ilustrados familiarized themselves with advances overseas and became exponents of national self-determination. The sending of government scholars or pensionados has been a generations-old means to upgrade the skills and learning of individuals the state believes can help propel nation-building efforts. Asian nations have done this since the 19th century: the Japanese and Thais implemented a vigorous policy of sending its best minds to study abroad to help modernize their nations.

Since the 1970s, however, Philippine administrations and many educational institutions have pursued a policy of resisting efforts to open up the educational system to foreigners. While foreign students have traditionally encountered a hospitable environment in the country, rules and regulations governing most professions prohibit foreigners from practicing those professions, even if they obtain a Philippine diploma. On the other hand, over the same period, Filipinos have sought every opportunity to practice their professions abroad, under circumstances that are, in terms of regulations, often much more accommodating.

The Bureau of Immigration recently announced that there has been a 20-percent increase in the number of foreigners enrolled in Philippine schools. Up to 6,416 foreigners have been issued student visas, with 1,871 being newcomers while 4,545 are returning students. We believe that this is welcome news, and should receive the support of the government. There is no obstacle to schools, for example, charging full or even adding a premium to tuition for foreign students, which, if properly pursued, can open up avenues for hard-pressed educational institutions to maintain quality by improving income.

There is a cultural dimension to foreign students coming to the Philippines as well. Exposure to foreign cultures can serve as the best bridge between nations; it can improve and strengthen cultural ties; and in terms of knowledge of the way the world works, there is much to be gained from foreigners becoming familiar with our society and us becoming familiar with our foreign neighbors.

There is an economic dimension as well, with its pros and cons but which, we believe, has benefits that, properly managed, can outweigh the disadvantages of foreigners coming to study in the Philippines. It is an impetus for regional growth: enrolments are remarkable in Baguio, Angeles, Iloilo, Cebu and Davao. Property rentals, tutorial services and so many other business benefit from foreign students coming here, and can sometimes make the difference between having to leave or being able to stay, for our own qualified teachers and instructors.

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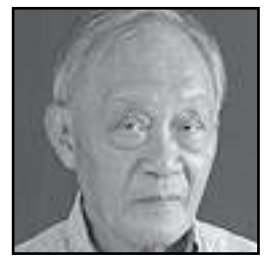
Squandered bully pulpit



Analysis

By AMANDO DORONILA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The Malacañang Press Corps is uneasy over the unaccustomed chumminess of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as she prepares to hand over power to President-elect Benigno Aquino III in her attempt to make the transition appear as seamless and smooth as possible.

A week before the ritual changeover on June 30, Palace reporters were taken aback by the drastic atmospheric change in the President's dealings with the media, as she revealed the hidden and more amiable facets of her character. Reporters noted that this late-hour charm offensive appeared to be an attempt to present the "human face" of a presidency masked by the armor of a technocracy-driven administration.

A week ago, the President hosted a farewell party with Palace reporters in which she let her hair down, mingled with them and engaged them in small talk, something she abhorred during most of her nine-year presidency. She treated them to a sumptuous dinner not at Malacañang, but at the Red Crab restaurant inside Mimosa Golf and Country Club in Clark, Pampanga, a touristic redoubt. She hopped from table to table, chatting with her guests, and this time, it was no longer a press conference, and serious matters of state took a back seat. It looked like a getting-to-know-you party, something that should have been done at the beginning of her second presidency in 2004.

If the party was meant to make amends for the lost years of uneasy and often testy relationship between the President and the media, it did not serve the purpose, and it came too late to be useful. Maybe the President is more amiable this time because she craves to be understood and be remembered more fondly after she steps down.

The adversarial relationship between the press and government has not reached a higher level of mutual antagonism than during the Arroyo presidency. If there is a presidency that has most curtailed the frequency of dialogue between the press and the President, Ms Arroyo's presidency takes the honor. During her watch, the President and the press engaged in a running battle over the media's access to information on public affairs. In this tug-of-war, the President and media acted as natural adversaries, the former jealously putting a lid on information, seen as essential to the public's right to know, and the latter uncovering the secrets of government and its wrong doings and questionable transactions.

At the Mimosa Club, the President and the media people put behind them those bad memories about her bad temper, her barring questions she didn't like to answer and scolding reporters putting those questions. The media people took all those outbursts of presidential petulance in stride as part of the territory of their occupation.

To be sure, Ms Arroyo never had newspaper people who crossed her arrested even during the most critical years of the crisis of confidence of her government, unlike Ferdinand Marcos who jailed his newspaper critics when he declared martial law in 1972. It must be recalled though that the Philippine National Police handcuffed reporters covering the siege of the Peninsula Hotel by renegade soldiers, on the grounds that the media people had crossed police lines.

Every president since Manuel L. Quezon had his/her own style of dealing with recalcitrant and troublesome newspaper people. Each presidency is a period of exploration by the media of how far they can exercise their freedom to obtain information being kept under wraps by the government and how far they are allowed by the authorities to do so.

Each presidency is a discovery of a President's methods of dealing with the press, and media people have no illusions over the reality that they have to flush out the news as best as they can or they will be co-opted by the President, whoever that may be. President Corazon Aquino had her own brand of vindictiveness, although it was not of the violent type.

At Mimosa, the reporters discovered that Ms Arroyo, like most of them, has a taste for a good glass of wine. They discovered that she can take a drink as hard as they, and that she is as human as they are. But alas, they can no longer turn back the clock to repair the damage from their thorny relationship.

The Palace press corps is anticipating the presidency of Aquino with no false expectations that its relationship with him would be less turbulent. Neither should Aquino expect the media to be more amiable and friendly to him than they were to President Arroyo. In reality, the tone of government-media relationship is set by the President, more specifically by his openness to engaging the media in a continuing dialogue and making available, rather than withholding, information the media need to deliver relevant news to the public.

The last encounter between the Malacañang Press Corps and President Arroyo did not leave the media people with a kinder view of her. Their view of her performance during the past nine years will not be influenced by that single event. That view has been defined by the encounters of the past nine years.

My own impression of President Arroyo as a communicator is that she is most effective as a narrator of the inside stories of the crises her government went through. She is an engaging and a natural story teller, a gift she has not used more often to make the public identify with her.

With this default, she squandered the opportunities offered by the presidency as a bully pulpit to communicate with the people. Instead, she bullied the media in the hope of turning them into a sounding board for her propaganda. What a waste.

Heritage: Why and how

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Twenty-five years ago the late Pedro Ortiz Armengol, ambassador of Spain to the Philippines, took me on a tour of Rizal's Manila. There was nothing original of that time left; everything was modern. At best, the historic site was a neglected ruin. This may explain why, when people remember the "Manila Beautiful" projects of the American period, or "the distinguished and ever loyal City of Manila" of Spanish times, they speak with a mixture of nostalgia and regret. That Manila is only a memory. When we speak of Manila, the Pearl of the Orient, we speak in the past tense.

Armed with a copy of "Noli me tangere," in the original Spanish, and a late 19th-century map of "Manila" (meaning the area "within the walls" or Intramuros) and its "arrabales" or suburbs—Malate, Ermita, Tondo, Binondo, Quiapo, etc.—we followed Ibarra as he walked through the small streets of Binondo. Then we crossed the Pasig to Intramuros and saw where the Monasterio de Santa Clara, the Ateneo Municipal, and the University of Santo Tomas once stood before the Battle for Manila in 1945. The Japanese started the destruction of Intramuros, and the Americans completed the job.

One needed a lot of imagination for this walking tour, but that was not the most important lesson I learned from Pedro Ortiz Armengol who said: "Always use an old map and try to see where history and literature were made—the street names may change, buildings and landmarks torn down and replaced with something else, but the general outline of a city does not change. Look at waterways, look at the way streets are laid out. The foundation, the lay-out of a city never changes."

I have never looked at Metro Manila the same way since. My visual memory is filled with images of a city and a lifestyle long gone. I look at the Makati Shangri-La and remember the old Rizal Theater. I look at Glorietta and remember Sulo Restaurant, Makati Supermarket, Angela Arcade, Bricktown and Maranao. I look at the intersection of EDSA (Epifanio Delos Santos Avenue) and Quezon Boulevard and see beyond the MRT tracks, underpass and the MMDA chicken wire, road blocks and pedestrian walkways that provide an obstacle course where there once was a "rotunda" that was a gentle way to keep traffic at this busy intersection flowing.

All these are long gone, but should they have been preserved out of sentiment? What would our cities and towns look like today if we followed the ridiculous recommendation to preserve everything 50 years old and over?

An unnecessary burden has been placed on property owners and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts that does not have the mandate or the expertise to execute this new task. The whole point of declaration by the National Museum and the National Historical Commission is that the state, following a process and clear criteria, identifies what is significant to our national life and declares what should be protected. There are sites and structures that may be 1,000 years old but historically and culturally insignificant.

There are some that are only 10 years old but should be preserved. Who should determine this? There are two government agencies mandated to do this for us and instead of creating a new string of red tape, can't we support and strengthen the agencies rather than marginalizing them to give way to yet another group with yet another set of values?

Historic sites are naturally better with a historic structure over it, but often it is just a site. Sometimes, we are left with ruins like Fort Santiago in Intramuros, or the birthplace of Juan Luna in Badoc, Ilocos Norte. These have been rebuilt. The same can be said of the so-called Rizal House in Calamba that is a replica built over half a century ago, funded by donations from schoolchildren all over the country. I was informed that the detention cell of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and Jose W. Diokno in Camp Magsaysay, Laur, Nueva Ecija, that had been long torn down was rebuilt some years ago in time for a visit of Corazon Aquino.

How accurate is that reconstruction? I have my doubts knowing how difficult it is to tread the line between historical accuracy and the imagination.

The Rizal Shrine was rebuilt following an old photograph of the exterior and the foundations revealed after some preliminary digging. Thus, we know what the house looked like outside but what of the interior? There are only three small bedrooms on the second floor: one for Rizal's parents, another for Rizal and his elder brother Paciano, and the third, which can't even contain two single beds and a cabinet, shared by the nine Rizal sisters! Then there is a well built alongside a latrine. Common sense, which unfortunately is not common, should make us ask questions and rethink what we see.

History has left us with empty spaces, ruins, reconstructions and existing original structures in various stages of preservation or deterioration. How do we identify and rationalize care and maintenance for all these? Who will determine what is to be saved and not?

Heritage protection should be everybody's concern. The challenge is how to settle conflicting ideas of what should be saved, how, and why?

Popular walking tours led by Carlos Celdran and Ivan Man Dy hopefully open our eyes to what is lost, what is existing and what can and should be preserved.

Comments are welcome in my Facebook Fan Page.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

FIRST BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aadrick delos Reyes, shown here with his Dad, celebrates his first birthday with a party at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe on June 19, 2010.

Congratulations to Orly Indalecio Santos Jr. III who graduated from elementary school on Friday, June 18, 2010, at Dandan Elementary School. "Due to hard work in study and interest in schooling you were awarded with six medals in different academic subjects. We are very proud of you. Keep up the good work and good luck as you enter the next stage of your study." Greetings coming from your loving mom Jane, grandma Minda and grandpa Tony. In photo are brother Renren, Dad Orlando, the awardee and brother John. Mom Jane was the one took the picture.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, left, and CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial are all smiles.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CNMI Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, joins Vietnam Consul General to San Francisco, Le Quoc Hung, center, and another Vietnam official at the Summit on Wednesday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy birthday to Ayana Cristel Nunez who celebrated her fourth birthday last Tuesday, June 22,2010, at her residence in Gualo Rai. May the good Lord shower you more blessings and more birthdays to come. Greetings coming from Lolo Jun and Lola Vicky.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated birthday greetings to Mary Grace Vendiola who celebrated her seventh birthday last Sunday, June 20, 2010, at her residence in As Lito, Saipan. Greetings coming from your mom Marlene, dad Fred and brother Boboy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Kristine Marie Jack Babauta, daughter of Diego and Dolorina Babauta, for graduating from Thurgood Marshall Middle School in San Diego, Calif., and receiving the Presidential and 4.0 Citizenship awards on June 20, 2010. "We admire and appreciate the courage, perseverance, and hard work you've dedicated to your education. We love you and we're so proud of you!" Kristine will continue her education in California and attend Scripps Ranch High School next Fall.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, Yap Gov. Sebastian Anefal, and Kosrae Lt. Gov. William Tosie wait for the start of a group photo on the first day of the three-day 13th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit at the Fiesta Resort and Spa in Garapan on Wednesday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

LIBRARY VISIT

CNMI first lady Josie Fitial learns some dance moves with children, along with the wives of Micronesian chief executives, as part of the Wise Women Village Project-Healthy Ballroom Dance program at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on Thursday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Palau's Sadaria W. Fritz, wife of Palau Minister Harry Fritz, shows what she's got at the Wise Women Village Project-Healthy Ballroom Dance program at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on Thursday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Guam first lady Joann Camacho reads to children at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library during a celebrity read-aloud activity Thursday morning.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

YoungStyle

AP

Anxious parents wait outside a school where students are taking the annual college entrance examinations in Beijing, China, Monday, June 7, 2010. This year, about 9.5 million students are expected to take the exam on June 7 and 8, a slight dip from 10.2 million last year, according to a report posted on the web site of the Communist Party newspaper People's Daily.

Chinese teens compete for entry to elite schools

By CHI-CHI ZHANG
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BEIJING (AP)—The 14-hour study sessions were over but the nerves remained for Tong Dan as she squeezed in some last-minute cramming during a lunch break Monday from the most important test she and millions of other Chinese teens will ever take.

Each year, about 10 million high school seniors across China take the "gaokao"—the exam that is the sole determinant for whether they get into a university. About 68 percent of test takers this year are expected to pass—but for the vast majority who don't it means they head straight into the search for a low-paying, blue-collar job.

But even a college degree no longer guarantees graduates a good job in China's increasingly competitive workplace. With about 700,000 of last year's university graduates still unemployed, there is added pressure on students like 17-year-old Tong to do well on the two-day college entrance exam and gain one of the few coveted slots at the country's elite schools.

China has poured billions of dollars into a massive university expansion plan over the past few decades, meaning the number of graduates will skyrocket to a record 6.3 million this year, compared to 1 million in 1998. The expansion has also led to a widening gap between the quality of education found in many universities, especially those in poorer provinces, and the top schools.

"Students only want to go to (top schools) because they think those graduates are more likely to find jobs. But those spaces are limited and most (other) universities inadequately prepare students for the work force," said Zhang Juwei, deputy director of the Institute of Population and Labor Economics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

That leads to massive pressure on students to do well on the gaokao, with extra evening study sessions focussing on rote memorization and essay preparation considered essential in the months leading up to the exam.

"I want to get into the Beijing Dance Academy, so I can find a job as a teacher after graduation," said Tong, who is from a rural town in nearby Shanxi province and goes to the Beijing International Arts School.

While most students ate or rested during Monday's 3-hour afternoon break, Tong sat on a curb outside a downtown Beijing testing center and reviewed math questions with her mother, Guo Caihong.

For Guo, like many parents, hopes for a better future for her family rest on her only child's shoulders. Guo, 41, took a 16-hour train ride from their hometown of Yuncheng earlier this month and rented a hotel room, all to help support her daughter.

"Hopefully her test results won't reflect her nerves," Guo said, said looking more nervous than her pigtailed daughter.

Job market worries and increased competition for slots at top schools mean more students, especially those with the financial means, are looking overseas for a university education. In 2009, 27 percent more Chinese students, about 229,000, chose to study abroad compared to the previous year, according to the official China Daily newspaper.

The government has recognized the stress students face and officials have announced plans to take another look at the generations-old tradition used to winnow a massive population into a small educated elite.

Ministry of Education officials announced plans earlier this year to allow students to take subject-specific tests and introduce other measures besides the exam, such as considering leadership and volunteer experience, to decide on how students get into college.

"Students should not be judged on one score alone and universities are slowly beginning to see that," said Zhang. "China is still working on plans to change the system, but it won't happen overnight."

Study: Teens not the worst text-driving culprits

By RACHEL METZ
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—If you're about to warn your teenager about the dangers of texting or talking on the phone while driving, a new report suggests you look in the mirror first.

A study released Friday by The Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project says adults and teenagers are equally likely to have texted while driving. And adults are more likely to have chatted on their phones while driving.

The study found that 47 percent of adults who text reported sending or reading texts while behind the wheel. In a 2009 Pew study, a lower number—34 percent—of 16- and 17-year-olds who send texts said that they did that while driving.

Because not everyone has a phone or sends texts, the report said the findings indicate that 27 percent of all U.S. adults have sent or read texts while driving and 26 percent of all U.S. 16- and 17-year-olds have done so.

The study also found that adults are much more likely to chat on their phones while driving: 75 percent of adults with mobile phones said they talked and drove. Fifty-two percent of teenagers with cell phones said they did so in last year's study.

That would translate into a finding that 61 percent of all U.S. adults talk on the phone while driving, while the 2009 study indicates that 43 percent of all 16- and 17-year-olds do likewise.

Mary Madden, a senior research specialist for Pew and the study's lead author, said that while many educational efforts that emphasize the dangers of distracted driving have targeted teens, the findings show a need to educate adults, too.

"I think all of us can identify with that temptation to stay connected during those idle moments in the car. ... The reality is, even if the car isn't moving, a delayed response to a green light or at a stop sign can still result in an accident," she said.

The Pew study didn't take into account that some drivers may be using handsfree devices such as Bluetooth headsets when they talk and drive, but Madden pointed out that simply having a conversation can be a distraction.

Even when not driving, adults are still engrossed in their phones: The study said that 17 percent of adults who have cell phones reported walking into other people or things because they were so busy using their phones to text or chat.

The survey used telephone interviews with 2,252 adults between April 29 and May 30. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.4 percentage points.

Try this!

© 2010 MCT
Source: World Book
Graphic: Paul Trap

Strong and weak shadows

Not all shadows are the same. It all depends on what sort of light is causing the shadow. Here are some different kinds of shadows:

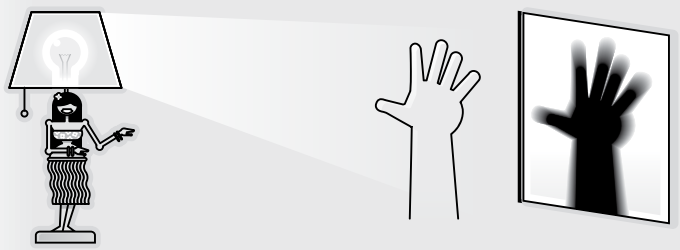
You'll need

- Lamp with a fabric or paper shade that dims its light *(NOT a fluorescent light)*
- Lamp with an uncovered light bulb, such as a desk lamp or work light *(NOT a fluorescent light)*
- Large fluorescent light, such as a kitchen or office ceiling light
- Piece of light-colored cardboard

Do this

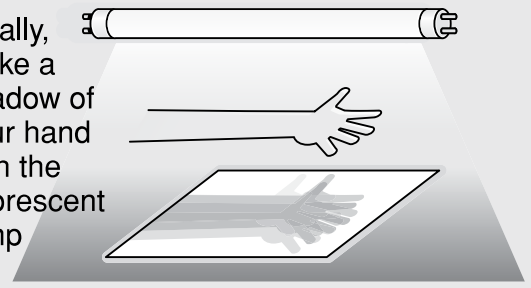
1 ***Do this experiment at night or in a room where you can close out all other light***

Hold your hand and the cardboard up to the lamp with a shade like this, and examine the shadow it makes:



2 Then hold your hand and the cardboard up to the lamp with no shade, and examine the shadow:

3 Finally, make a shadow of your hand with the fluorescent lamp



What happened?

- The first light makes a shadow with fuzzy edges
- The second light makes a dark shadow with sharp edges
- The fluorescent light makes a very fuzzy shadow with faint edges
- That's because the light from the shaded lamp and the fluorescent light is diffused; it doesn't come from a single point, but from many points
- If light comes from almost a single point, like the light bulb in the second lamp, it makes a clear shadow

RIDDLE CARD

1. What kin is the door to the doormat?
2. Where is a good place to go when you're broke?
3. What question must be answered "Yes"?
4. What was the best bet ever made?
5. What do you lose every time you stand up?

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Answers: 1. Just a step fa'ther. 2. Go to work. 3. "What does Y-E-S spell?" 4. The alphabet. 5. Your lap.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

Illustrated by David Coulson

1.	E							D
2.		E					D	
3.			E			D		
4.				E	D			
5.				D	E			
6.			D			E		
7.		D					E	
8.	D							E

FIND THE BIG WORDS!

Using the definitions and the anagrams below, you must find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.

DEFINITIONS:	ANAGRAM:
1. Type of invitation.	drag + even
2. A great summertime drink.	dome + lean
3. He guards and herds animals.	hogs + deep
4. A great place for a race.	weed + pays
5. Wrongdoings.	dims + seed
6. An ill-mannered act.	dens + sure
7. Every car has one.	tore + dome
8. A sturdy blue cloth.	gear + dune

Answers: 1. Engraved. 2. Lemonade. 3. Sheepdog. 4. Speedway. 5. Misdeeds. 6. Rudeness. 7. Odometer. 8. Dungaree.

A TRIANGULAR WAGER! Lay out 9 sticks on the table, as shown in Fig. 1, and bet your friends that they can't move 3 of the sticks to new positions and create 5 triangles.

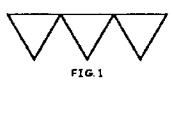
FIG. 1

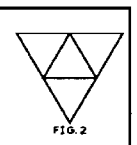
FIG. 2

Answer: Place them as shown in Fig. 2. You now have 4 small triangles and 1 large one.

LINK-UPS! Here's a list of 12 short words, divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

1.	MIL	ELL
2.	NET	BLED
3.	OUTS	LED
4.	RAM	DISH
5.	MAD	HER
6.	PAL	AGES

Answers: Milages, nether, outsell, rambled, maddish, palled.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was multitalented Robert Anton Wilson—he was, at various times in his life, a novelist, essayist, psychologist, editor, philosopher, playwright and mystic—who made the following observation: "It only takes 20 years for a liberal to become a conservative without changing a single idea."

■ The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently released its study on the costs of raising a child. Those who have children may not be surprised to learn that the average two-parent, middle-income family spends a whopping $222,360 on the child through the age of 17—and that figure, or course, doesn't include the cost of a college education.

■ The blue whale is the largest animal known to have ever existed. The marine mammal is so large, in fact, that a grown man could swim through its largest blood vessels.

■ The company known as Ulysse Nardin, based in Switzerland, is known for its line of luxury watches. They've recently expanded their offerings, though, so the next time you're in the market for a cell phone, you might want to check out their version of Google's Android model. You also might want to check your bank account; this gold-plated piece of technology will retail for $50,000.

■ Here's a sign of our increasingly cluttered lives: When the National Association of Professional Organizers was formed, in 1985, it had five members. Today there are more than 4,000 registered organizers with the group.

■ According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, those who hold the most dangerous job in America aren't firefighters or police officers; they're taxi drivers, with 22.7 homicides for every 100,000 workers each year.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "It's not the genius who is 100 years ahead of his time but the average man who is 100 years behind it."—Robert Musil

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MAGIC MAZE ● WORDS WITH THREE T'S

L S P M J H E E B Y V T Q O L
E I T G D B Y L E W T R P T M
K L O O T T A T D I F D B W Y
W U T S Q O M T U K I F D I B
Z A T T E S T O T X R W W T U
E S E Q E T O R I E E N P T L
J L R H F K U H T T L M D E C
A Y T W V W A T T M E T E R T
S Q P T N L U E A T K I R H F
E C E T A T S E T T I F B A Z
Y W V U S T S A R Q S P N M B

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Attempt	Fittest	Teakettle	Twitter
Attest	Statute	Testate	Wattmeter
Attitude	Stutter	Throttle	Wettest
Bartlett	Tattle	Totter	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	−		x		25
÷		+		−	
	+		x		10
+		x		x	
	+		+		20
12		16		21	

1 2 2 3 4 5 6 7 9

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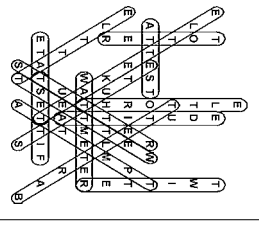
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

	21		16		12
20	7	+	4	+	9
	x		x		+
10	2	x	3	+	2
	−		+		÷
25	5	x	1	−	6

Helping Dachshund to improve her aim

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have a 9-month-old Dachshund, "Betty," whom I have trained to use "wet pads." She has been very good, with one exception: When she has to urinate she gets her front paws on the pad and starts going, and the urine ends up half on the pad and the rest on the floor (thank God I have tile). It is hard for me to take her outside. I don't want to scold her, as it would only confuse the situation. Any suggestions?—Kay, via e-mail

DEAR KAY: I like that you're keeping Betty's training positive, and I think that a combined solution can work here.

Use a piece of wood to create a bumper that can be placed against the edge of the pee pad. It doesn't need to be very high—three or four inches at most—but it should extend to both edges of the pad where Betty usually hangs her butt. Duct tape the wood to the floor.

Take Betty to the pee pad on a leash for the next few days, around the time that she typically uses it. Let her investigate the bumper, and then lead her onto the pad, facing her usual direction. Let her start peeing on her own.

She should automatically move forward before squatting to pee. As soon as she does this and starts going, give her lots of praise and when she's finished, add a treat and more praise.

If she doesn't automatically move up to avoid the bumper, stand in front of her while holding her leash and give the command "come," and then "stay" when she's in position. Let her continue the pee ritual and follow with lots of praise.

The idea here is to get her to go "Oh, I get it!" or at least associate the middle of the pad with good things. When she starts going straight to that position without prompting, remove the bumper board. Repeat the training session, with lots of praise when she goes in the middle of the pad.

■ ■ ■

Send your pet questions and tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet advice and resources at www.pawscorner.com.

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A penny-wise car travel game

If you're hitting the road on a trip this summer, you might be looking for a new car game to keep everyone happy, occupied and amused. Tired of playing 20 questions, license-plate search and travel bingo? Try one of my family favorites we call "penny-wise travel game." I guarantee it will entertain passengers in both the back seat and the front.

Before the trip, round up several small containers that snap closed or have tight-fitting lids, such as breath-mint tins, small cardboard matchboxes or travel-size jars. Just be sure the opening is larger than a penny. Fill the containers with stray pennies from your house, and snap or screw the lids shut. Then, on strips of paper that will fit around the containers, list some things the traveling players can do with the pennies.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

■ Let everyone in the car guess how many pennies are in a particular container. When everyone has guessed, count the pennies to find out.

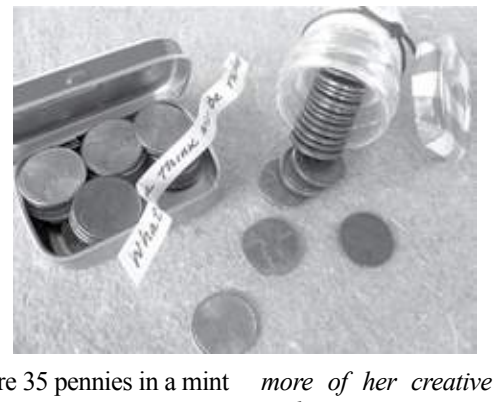
■ Take turns and list how many separate items you can buy for that amount of money. For example, if there are 35 pennies in a mint tin, think of what can be purchased nowadays for 35 cents. You might be grasping for answers!

■ Guess which date appears most frequently on the pennies in the container.

■ List the dates on another piece of paper. Then think of events that took place for each, such as Superbowl and World Series champions. Include your family events, too.

■ Find the penny with the oldest date. Imagine and then talk about all the places that penny may have traveled through the years before it landed in the container. Maybe it fell in the ocean but was retrieved along the shore. Did it travel down the Mississippi on a riverboat? Who are the U.S. presidents who might have held that very penny in their hands?

Wrap the strips of game ideas around the containers and hold them in place with a rubberband or string. Once on the road, just as you feel the "When are we gonna get there?" blues begin, divert your travelers and hand them a container of pennies for their thoughts.



■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Life & Style

'Eclipse' stars attend premiere amid 'Twi-hards'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Monica Siegel and her two friends dropped a total of $2,500 and flew hundreds of miles to camp out for four days on a gritty patch of sidewalk in downtown Los Angeles. On Thursday, it was all worth it.

Siegel, 22, of Fennville, Mich., nabbed a spot near the red carpet to see—and swoon over—the heartthrob stars of "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse" as they arrived at the premiere of the latest installment in the blockbuster vampire series.

"It's been a big part of my life. I start caring about the characters a lot, and when they make the movies, you start caring about the actors that portray the characters," she said after frantically coloring a fan poster. "The love story is what drew me in."

Siegel, a college sophomore, spent more than $1,000 on airfare, camping equipment and a motel to make it to California with her two friends, whom she met through a Twilight Facebook page. The motel, at $60 a night, was for showers only: Siegel and her pals have been sleeping and living in their brand-new tent since Sunday. "I've never gone camping in my life," Siegel said. "We're paying for a hotel room we can't sleep in—but we can shower!"

AP

From left, Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner arrive at the premiere of "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse" on Thursday, June 24, 2010 in Los Angeles.

Siegel, 21-year-old Amanda Willis, of Dallas, and 25-year-old Melissa Moorhead, of Seattle, are just three among thousands of so-called "Twi-hards" who have clogged the downtown premiere venue since early this week, camping out in a specially-designated tent city for a fleeting glimpse of stars such as Robert Pattinson, Kristin Stewart and Taylor Lautner.

Up to 9,000 people were issued wristbands for a chance to see the film. At least 550 early birds, like Siegel, were ensured a spot along the red carpet, which was black for the occasion.

Celebrities working their way down the carpet before the premiere were swarmed with screaming, frantic fans. Dakota Fanning, who plays the vampire Jane, said she was amazed by the fan presence—even in comparison with what she has seen in her own childhood acting career.

"It's really exciting. I don't think I'll ever be part of something like this for the rest of my life," she said. "It's really kind of surreal."

Alex Meraz, who plays a hot-tempered werewolf named Paul, said one overly enthusiastic fan asked him to take his shirt off and that another asked him to autograph a book he hadn't written.

AEG, which owns L.A. Live and distributed the premiere wristbands with Summit Entertainment, screened "New Moon" for fans Tuesday night. On Wednesday, the film's actors, Peter Facinelli, Billy Burke, Julia James and Jackson Rathbone, distributed hamburgers, CDs and makeup in the tent city.

Queen makes first visit to Wimbledon in 33 years

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II made her first appearance at Wimbledon in 33 years Thursday—applauding Briton Andy Murray as he won his second match and shaking hands with a giddy Serena Williams, who showed off her curtsy.

Wearing a white dress, a bright turquoise coat and matching hat, the 84-year-old queen braved scorching temperatures as she greeted onlookers and met former champions such as Billie Jean King and Martina Navratilova before greeting the tennis tournament's top seeds.

Williams, who wore a form-fitting white top and skirt, had talked at length about her efforts to perfect her curtsy and sport more conservative clothing—the defending champion is known for outrageous outfits such as a skintight black catsuit and fluorescent orange micro-shorts.

Smiling widely, Williams took a deep curtsy as she met the queen. Her sister Venus Williams, who was wearing a glamorous mauve dress, also appeared to curtsy as she was introduced to the monarch.

Neither Serena nor Roger Federer, who also met the queen, were scheduled to play on Center Court, where the monarch watched tennis from the Royal Box.

Murray, the only British singles player left in the tournament in a year of exceptionally poor showings by the host country, appeared nervous at first but went on to score an easy victory against Jarkko Nieminen of Finland 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

The fourth-seeded Murray said that as they walked out to court, he took care to coordinate with his opponent when they would bow to the Royal Box. Spectators roared and wolf-whistled as the two players bowed together in the queen's direction both before and after the match.

"There's obviously some nerves, there," he said, referring to meeting the queen, adding that he probably got "a bit of extra luck" in his play because of her presence.

"It's probably a once in a lifetime opportunity for all of us ... Don't know whether she'll be coming in the next few years, but I definitely enjoyed it," he said.

Although in decades past, the tennis club maintained a tradition of a bow or curtsy to royal attendants, that practice was dropped in 2003. Still, many indulged the monarch Thursday.

Thousands of people welcomed her arrival earlier in the day.

"She looked stunning, she's just amazing," said Debbie Moody, a 45-year-old nurse, after watching the queen's arrival. "It's a shame she hasn't been for so long, but I'm so glad she has decided to come back."

AP

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II shakes hands with defending champion Serena williams, as she attends the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, for the first time in 33 years, Thursday June 24, 2010.

Fans plan remembrances for Jackson 1 year later

NEW YORK (AP)—A year ago, DJ John Quick was scheduled to spin at a party when he got the news—Michael Jackson was dead.

So instead of playing the hits of the moment, the Harlem event turned into an impromptu tribute to the King of Pop.

"It was the first time I've ever seen grown people crying and dancing at the same time," he said.

On Friday, the first anniversary of the King of Pop's death, Quick will once again play Michael Jackson tunes, at the club Taj in Manhattan, but he expects a more cheerful party this time.

"They wanna celebrate his life and music," he said. "His albums are like timelines in your life. You can remember what you were doing ... when 'Thriller' came out."

The Taj party will be part of the global celebration of Jackson's brilliant but troubled life. Jackson died at age 50 as he was preparing for comeback concerts in London.

In that city, a memorial was unveiled Thursday to a gaggle of press who packed the foyer of London's Lyric Theatre, the site of an impromptu wake following the pop superstar's death last year.

Perri Luc Kiely, 14, a member of the dance troupe Diversity, pulled back a pair of dark purple curtains to reveal a small plaque featuring a young Jackson with a wide, beaming smile. Applause and the bright flashes of cameras erupted.

"He influenced me and the whole group so much, and it was just a real big honor to be able to do that," Perri said.

With the foyer packed to the brim with photographers, videographers and journalists, fans stood on the street and peered in, capturing the moment with their camera phones.

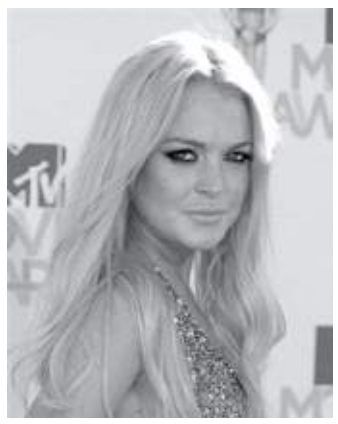
Leanne Irving, 20, traveled seven hours by bus from her home in northern England to be able to attend the memorial events.

"An absolute inspiration. I would love to be like him and dance like him. He inspires everything I want to do in life and everything I want to achieve," said Irving, an aspiring performance artist.

Judge orders Lindsay Lohan to answer questions

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Lindsay Lohan will have to answer more questions about a 2007 car chase that landed her in jail, including inquiries about drug use at the time, a judge ruled Thursday.

Lohan's answers will be used in a civil lawsuit filed against the actress by a woman who claims she suffered emotional distress after the incident, which prompted a criminal case that still haunts the "Mean Girls" star.



Lohan

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Richard A. Stone ordered Lohan to sit for a two-hour deposition next month. The judge approved a request by Lohan's attorney to allow the questioning to happen after July 6, when a criminal judge will decide whether Lohan violated her probation by missing a court hearing in May.

Tracie Rice, who was a passenger in a car being chased by Lohan in July 2007, sued the actress for assault, negligence and intentional infliction of emotional distress a month later. The case is scheduled to go to trial in late July.

Lohan was charged with seven misdemeanors stemming from her arrest after the chase and another incident a few months earlier.

Rice's attorney, Paul Hoffman, argued Thursday that Lohan hadn't answered key questions about her drug use and whether she was remorseful, both of which could help his case.

Timbaland, Dr. Dre surprise graduation party

CULVER CITY, Calif. (AP)—Dr. Dre and Timbaland went back to school Wednesday night.

The rapper-producers shocked students when they appeared at a Culver City High School graduation party. Dr. Dre introduced Timbaland, who performed the tunes "The Way I Are," "Promiscuous Girl," "Carry Out" and "Say Something" on a stage in the school's gymnasium. Students invited had no idea the hip-hop masterminds were the guests of honor.

"When we walked in, we were like, 'Whoa. Is this a second prom?'" said 17-year-old junior Saul Salmeron.

The surprise performance was sponsored by Hewlett-Packard, Interscope Records and Beats by Dr. Dre, who have partnered with the aim of improving digital sound quality on PCs. The promotional event, which was recorded for an online documentary, also featured free food, photos and a raffle of HP gear. The company said it was donating $10,000 worth of computer equipment to the school.

"Y'all got a curfew?" Timbaland asked the audience at one point.

Students held up their camera phones and gathered around the stage to get a glimpse of Timbaland and Dr. Dre, who sneaked a peek of the crowd before he took the stage. Dr. Dre, who is working on his next album, did not perform with labelmate Timbaland.

Is a possible collaboration is in the works?

"We should be so lucky," said Jimmy Iovine, chairman of Interscope, Geffen and A&M Records, who attended Wednesday's event. "I can only get them so close. The rest is up to them."

AP

In this March 17, 2005 file photo, Michael Jackson arrives at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse in Santa Maria, Calif.

Michael Jackson estate says documentary 'misled' fans

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The estate of Michael Jackson is taking issue with a documentary that is to debut in Japan on the anniversary of the pop star's death on Friday.

Most of the footage in the film was shot by Marc Schaffel, a former business partner who had a major falling out with Jackson in a messy trial in which they sued each other four years ago.

In a statement sent to The Associated Press on Thursday, the estate says the film's promoters "misled Michael Jackson's fans" by making it appear as if it were authorized.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," the estate said. "His estate was not consulted on this film, and will not endorse it."

The estate said none of the proceeds will flow to the estate, which benefits his children, mother and charities. It also said the movie cannot legally use any of Jackson's music.

Schaffel's lawyer, Howard King, said Thursday that his client had licensed footage that Schaffel either shot himself or hired a crew to take for the film's producer, Flamingo Features. He said Schaffel did not represent any endorsement from the estate.

"Marc Schaffel could not have been more clear about the lack of involvement of the estate," King said in an interview.

Schaffel provided footage from 2003 including of Jackson's birthday party at his sprawling Neverland Ranch, and was in Tokyo for the premiere with Jackson's ex-wife, Debbie Rowe, King said.

King said the Japanese distributor, a company called Star Sands, may have mistakenly been promoting the film as authorized, but he said advertisements were being changed early Friday.

Snipes hopes ex-adviser's arrest helps his case

ATLANTA (AP)—Wesley Snipes' attorneys are hoping his former financial adviser's arrest could pave the way for a new trial on tax evasion charges that landed the star of the "Blade" trilogy a three-year prison sentence.

Snipes has for months been seeking to have his conviction overturned, but now his attorneys want to file a new appeal based on the arrest of Kenneth Starr.

Starr, the one-time financial adviser to Snipes and other celebrities, was charged in May with securities fraud worth $59 million. Starr was a key witness in Snipes' 2008 trial and testified that he told the movie star to file tax returns and ignore the advice he got from an anti-tax outfit.

Snipes' attorneys asked the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in a motion filed Wednesday to stop considering the pending appeal and instead allow his attorneys to file a new request to either dismiss the conviction or grant Snipes a new trial in light of his adviser's arrest.

The motion contends that prosecutors knew that Starr, who has pleaded not guilty, was under federal investigation for tax violations of his own when he testified against Snipes in January 2008. Defense attorneys said in the filing such an investigation damages Starr's credibility.

AP

Actor Wesley Snipes is seen in an undated booking photo provided by the United States Marshall Service.

AP

In this Sept. 13, 2009 photo, singer-actress Mariah Carey participates in news conference for the film "Precious" during the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto.

Pooches are top dogs to Carey, rep says

NEW YORK (AP)—A spokeswoman says Mariah Carey's lawyers haven't yet seen a New York City lawsuit over pricey veterinary bills for the pop diva's dogs—but there's no question Carey is devoted to her pets. Representative Cindi Berger says the Grammy Award-winning singer is "a huge dog lover, as her fans around the world know."

Carey has four Jack Russell terriers and often Tweets about their escapades. She featured one of the dogs in comic videos on YouTube.

Veterinarian Cindy Bressler said in a lawsuit filed Wednesday that Carey owes nearly $30,000 for care last year for three of the pooches, Cha-Cha, Dolomite and JJ.

Carey told fans via Twitter that Cha-Cha added a newcomer to the mix this month: a puppy named Jackie Lambchops.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Woman held for trial in assault on 'Jackass' star

WEST CHESTER, Pa. (AP)—A woman accused of assaulting Bam Margera outside his suburban Philadelphia nightclub has been held for trial. Fifty-nine-year-old Elizabeth Ray lives near The Note, a club the 30-year-old MTV star owns in West Chester, Pa. A district judge ruled Thursday that Ray would be held for trial on aggravated assault and related counts. Margera says he was waiting for a ride around 2 a.m. on June 12 when he got into a verbal altercation with Ray. Margera says he was walking away and thought the argument had ended when he collapsed to the ground, suffering a concussion and a large cut on his head. A woman who was with Margera says she saw Ray holding a long, pipe-like object. Ray has said she is innocent.

Prosecutors drop rape charge on MC Hammer's cousin

PLEASANTON, Calif. (AP)—Alameda County prosecutors have dismissed rape charges against a cousin of MC Hammer who appeared on the rapper's cable TV reality show. Police arrested Marvin Grant in July 2009 after a 40-year-old woman he met through the online social networking site Twitter alleged he sexually assaulted her at a Livermore hotel. Deputy District Attorney Philip Daley says the charge was dropped June 15 because of insufficient evidence but declined to elaborate. Grant, also known as "Bigg Marv," appeared on MC Hammer's 2009 reality show, Hammertime, which followed the rapper and his family at their Tracy home on the A&E cable network. Grant says he met the woman who lives in Southern California through Twitter and the two exchanged e-mails and phone calls before meeting in person.

Chicago jazz saxophonist Anderson dies at 81

CHICAGO (AP)—A saxophonist whose Chicago club is known as one of the cradles of contemporary jazz has died. Fred Anderson was 81. His sons, Eugene and Michael Anderson, said their father died Thursday but declined to offer additional details. The Louisiana-born Anderson performed in relative obscurity until the tenor saxophonist's rise to prominence came in the 1990s. Music companies began to release recordings of his work to favorable reviews and he became a regular on the jazz-festival circuit in the United States and Europe. Anderson opened the Velvet Lounge in Chicago in 1982. At times, he did everything from collecting the $10 cover charge to jamming on stage to taking out the garbage.

Gardel inspires fans 75 years after death

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Fans of Carlos Gardel are celebrating the tango singer 75 years after he died in a plane crash. About 100 mostly elderly fans gathered at Gardel's tomb in Buenos Aires on Thursday, leaving flowers and lit cigarettes between the bronze fingers of a lifelike statue that stands above. Gardel's plane caught fire in Colombia in 1935, but those who love his music said his legacy will never die. "It's a flame that will never go out," said Luis Costa, who wore a Gardel tie as he arranged flowers. Another fan, Juan Carlos Giordano, said he listens to his more than 900 Gardel records on an antique vitrola, to better summon the feelings of nostalgia the singer celebrated in his repertoire.

Matchmaking mom wants son's gal pal in the family

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: "Todd" and I have been close friends since eighth grade. We're now in our mid-20s, and over the years I have gotten to know his family. His mother, "Cindy," is a kind and darling woman and I like her a lot.

The problem is, she has it in her head that I am perfect for Todd. On more than one occasion she has gone so far as to ask me why I don't marry him. Todd and I have always been close, but I have never had any interest in him beyond friendship. In fact, I am involved in a serious relationship right now with a man I love dearly.

Is there a way to stop Cindy from making suggestive comments without hurting her feelings?

HOLDING MY TONGUE FOR NOW IN MINNESOTA

DEAR HOLDING YOUR TONGUE: Todd's mother's attempts at matchmaking may be annoying, but they're the greatest compliment a mother can pay a young woman. The next time she does it, smile and tell her that if you could clone yourself you would because you think she'd be the best mother-in-law in the world, but you're seeing someone and the relationship is serious.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 48-year-old man about to be married for the second time. My bride, "Jennifer," is significantly younger than I, but aside from that, we're alike on most issues. We have lived together for five years and have two beautiful daughters, ages 3 and 7.

We are now involved in making wedding plans. I know it's a woman's special day, but when I ask the normal question of "How much does it cost?" Jennifer becomes unglued. She says she's aware that we don't have an unlimited budget, and she's sick and tired of my always asking about the costs and saying things are too expensive.

Today she went off again when I said that the diamond-encrusted wedding band she wants me to wear was too expensive, and a simple gold band is fine for me. I told Jennifer to cut out the Bridezilla attitude. Money is a factor in a wedding, and since I'm part of it, my opinion should matter as much as hers.

Now she's stomping around in a huff, and I'm at the end of my rope. If this is how she acts now, what about after the wedding? Am I being an idiot to worry about the money, or is Jennifer being unrealistic by ignoring it and stifling my concerns?

GROOM (?) IN MICHIGAN

DEAR GROOM (?): You're not an idiot. You are asking some very intelligent questions. One of the most frequent causes of divorce is arguments over money. So before you go any further, stop the music and insist that the two of you get premarital counseling to ensure that you really are on the same page. It could save you a bundle—of heartache and money.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am 17 and popular in school. I have a lot of friends, but inside I feel like I'm not good enough to go out with the popular boys I like. I am friends with them all, but they always pay more attention to the prettier girls.

I know I should feel privileged to be popular, but what can I do to get the guys to notice me more? I sometimes stay up crying at night over this.

WANTS MORE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR WANTS MORE: I'll tell you a secret. Fear of failure can become a self-fulfilling prophecy—and so can success. The more you dwell on your "deficiencies," the more pronounced they'll become. So, act more confident and soon you will be.

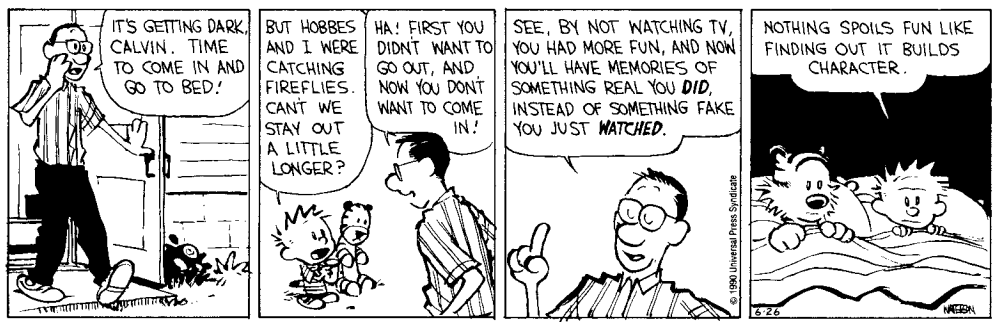
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

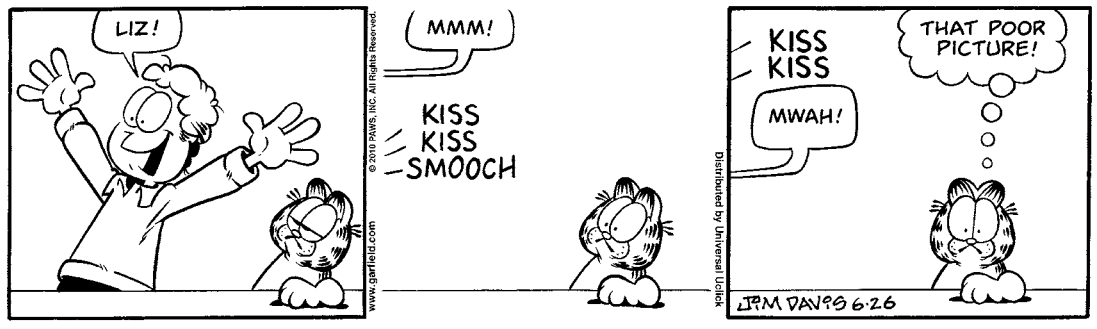
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


IT'S GETTING DARK, CALVIN. TIME TO COME IN AND GO TO BED!
BUT HOBBES AND I WERE CATCHING FIREFLIES. CAN'T WE STAY OUT A LITTLE LONGER?
HA! FIRST YOU DIDN'T WANT TO GO OUT, AND NOW YOU DON'T WANT TO COME IN!
SEE, BY NOT WATCHING TV, YOU HAD MORE FUN, AND NOW YOU'LL HAVE MEMORIES OF SOMETHING REAL YOU DID, INSTEAD OF SOMETHING FAKE YOU JUST WATCHED.
NOTHING SPOILS FUN LIKE FINDING OUT IT BUILDS CHARACTER.
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
6-26

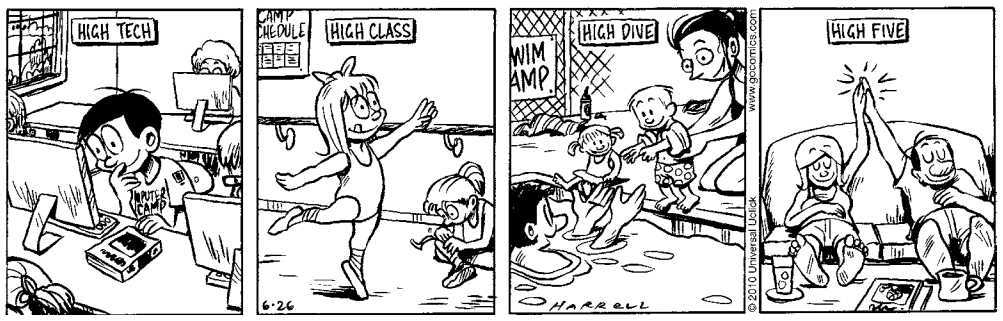
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

Here Goes PLAN 'A'!
Hi. How'd You Like To Go Out Sometime?
NOT IF YOU PAID ME.
DANG. THAT WAS PLAN 'B'!
© 2010 Glenn McCoy/dist. by Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Scrooge's late partner Marley
6 Narcotic
12 Trick-taking game
13 Deteriorate
14 Improve
15 Walking on air
16 Ogler's look
17 Relaxed
19 Type measures
20 Decorate, in today's slang
22 Standard
24 More, to Manuel
27 Edsel, for one
29 Capitol cap
32 A-line designer
35 Primary
36 Baserunner's goal
37 "CSI" evidence
38 Young chap
40 Alger's "before"
42 Eggs
44 Writer Kingsley
46 Erstwhile Peruvian
50 Swiss city
52 Palette array
54 Acquire abundantly
55 Maintenance
56 Twisty-horned herd
57 Fashion sense

DOWN

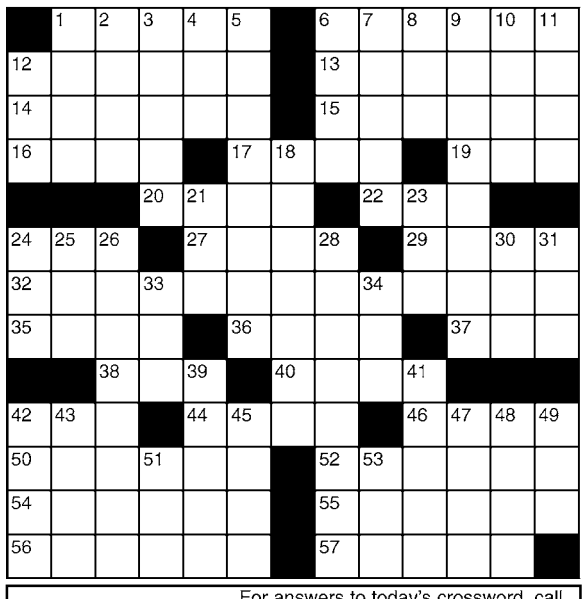
1 Beaver's mom
2 Farm fraction
3 Twitter
4 Fabled beast
5 Something monster-sized
6 Hasn't paid yet
7 Coral creator
8 George's brother
9 Belt component
10 Adolescent
11 Odds' partners
12 Conger or moray
18 Deductive
21 Contingencies
23 Toss in

Solution time: 27 mins.

C	A	N	■	T	A	L	C	■	T	R	I	P
A	L	E	■	A	S	E	A	■	R	O	A	R
P	A	W	N	S	H	O	P	■	A	C	M	E
E	S	T	A	T	E	■	A	N	Y	■	■	■
■	■	■	T	E	N	■	B	I	S	H	O	P
N	O	M	A	D	■	I	L	K	■	E	W	E
A	X	I	L	■	A	C	E	■	F	R	E	T
R	E	D	■	O	N	E	■	G	L	O	S	S
K	N	I	G	H	T	■	T	R	Y	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	M	I	■	R	E	N	O	W	N
S	U	R	F	■	Q	U	E	E	N	B	E	E
P	R	O	F	■	U	S	E	D	■	I	V	E
A	N	T	E	■	E	A	S	Y	■	T	E	D

Yesterday's answer 6-26

25 Yuletide refrain
48 Saskatchewan tribe
49 Cleo's slayer
51 Poetic contraction
53 Make up your mind



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Schwartzman, 30; Derek Jeter, 36; Sean Hayes, 40; Chris O'Donnell, 40

Happy Birthday: You'll face unexpected alterations to your plans, leaving you to find your own footing. So much of this year is dependent on the choices you make and the way you handle others. This is the year to size up your situation and to make a decision that allows you to move on with your life. Put an end to what's not working. Your numbers are 2, 5, 14, 21, 28, 32, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Separate from an emotional situation that can curb your enthusiasm or cause you stress. Focus more on having fun and enjoying friends. Don't allow anyone to guilt you into taking on a something you're not ready to deal with. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll be eager and ready to take on any challenge. Travel will inspire you but can also be riddled with delays, so prepare to enjoy downtime instead of letting it frustrate you. Contemplate what you want to do in the future. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Tie up any loose ends pertaining to contracts, settlements or health matters. Do your best to include the people you love most in your plans. You'll be taken for granted emotionally or financially if you give in to solicitations. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll be emotional about money matters and settlements. Don't let anyone see your true feelings or give away information that might influence the outcome of a deal you are trying to make. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You have to plan a trip or take in an event or entertainment you haven't experienced in the past. It will take your mind off some of the emotional issues you have going on at work or with a peer. Don't make a decision before you have all the facts. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You can make headway if, and only if, you take control. Networking is favored. Once you have a better idea regarding your options, you will not be as vulnerable or likely to lose financially. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let your emotions rule what you do or say. Get out of the house or away from anyone who causes you sorrow or judges you harshly. Do something to relax, enhance your looks or boost your confidence. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make up your mind and keep moving. It's waffling back and forth that will leave people wondering if you can do the job they expect of you. This is a fabulous time to work on something creative. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Avoid getting into any sort of rift with friends, neighbors or relatives if you don't want to lose the connection. The situation will turn ugly if you exaggerate. A wrong move now will cost you emotionally and financially. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll be determined to get your way, however, if that means being overindulgent, overdoing or overreacting, you will probably fall short of your goal. Don't let your uncertainty or jealousy lead to trouble. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Look for any opportunity that will help your financial situation. Being extravagant to make an impression or win someone's love will not pan out. An extra job will enable you to pay for the items that would make your life better. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Improving your surroundings will turn out well and bring you lots of compliments. Taking care of some of your own personal needs will help to enhance your looks and your attitude. Share your plans but don't make promises if you cannot follow through. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are self-critical and need affirmative responses from the people who know and love you. You are emotional and impulsive and strive for perfection.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5		7		3		9	
1								8
				5				
4			6		1			3
		2		9		1		
7			8		4			6
				4				
6								5
	8		2		7		3	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	4	9	2	6	1	3	5	7
3	6	1	7	9	5	4	2	8
2	7	5	3	8	4	9	6	1
5	1	4	6	3	7	2	8	9
6	3	8	4	2	9	7	1	5
9	2	7	1	5	8	6	3	4
1	9	3	5	4	6	8	7	2
7	8	2	9	1	3	5	4	6
4	5	6	8	7	2	1	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

38TH G8 SUMMIT IN TORONTO **Solution: 10 letters**

P	L	A	N	A	E	P	O	R	U	E	G	N	O	L
P	H	U	M	A	N	E	K	A	L	C	U	O	C	A
O	K	I	N	G	D	O	M	L	R	N	E	F	S	Y
J	I	N	S	T	H	G	I	R	D	A	S	L	E	O
A	E	R	A	I	P	V	T	N	N	R	T	Y	N	R
P	D	W	A	B	S	O	A	O	U	F	G	O	U	B
A	E	A	E	T	U	R	L	I	F	R	(T)	S	N	A
N	E	S	N	L	N	D	Y	I	E	T	(S)	C	I	Y
S	R	U	N	A	A	O	G	N	C	I	(O)	I	T	S
N	H	C	O	N	C	E	E	E	A	E	(H)	T	E	E
O	U	O	R	D	W	O	R	G	T	M	A	I	D	T
I	R	F	T	N	E	M	E	L	C	Z	R	Z	I	A
G	S	S	H	I	E	L	D	E	D	O	P	E	E	T
E	T	N	I	R	P	T	O	O	F	N	E	N	G	S
R	U	N	W	A	Y	S	C	O	V	E	R	A	G	E

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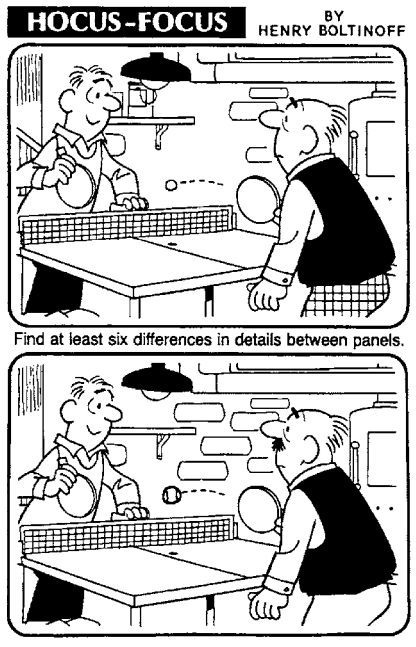
Bank, Bays, Budget, Canada, Citizen, Clement, Coverage, Deerhurst, Energy, Estate, European, Focus, Footprint, France, Fund, Germany, Grow, Guest, Harper, Host, Human, Huntsville, Italy, Japan, Jewel, Kingdom, Lake, Land, No-Fly, North, Ontario, Plan, Police, Real, Regions, Rights, Royal, Runway, Russia, Shielded, Tony, UNESCO, Union, United, Zone

Yesterday's Answer: Heat Wave

Treasury 8 can be ordered by sending check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

3. Pants are different. 4. Items are missing from shelf. 5. Bricks added to wall. 6. Stairs are gone.

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Wishing Well®

3	6	4	3	5	2	8	2	5	4	8	3	4
J	N	B	O	A	N	I	O	C	E	N	Y	O
6	7	5	3	7	8	6	3	2	8	3	7	6
E	C	C	F	H	T	W	R	M	U	O	E	R
2	4	8	7	3	4	8	4	2	8	7	4	5
O	B	I	C	M	J	T	E	R	I	K	C	E
4	8	7	3	2	3	6	8	7	4	2	3	7
T	O	Y	P	E	E	E	N	O	I	T	T	U
6	3	2	4	2	7	2	8	5	6	7	4	5
P	S	E	V	A	R	R	I	P	L	H	E	T
2	8	7	5	7	6	5	8	6	5	7	8	7
S	S	U	C	N	A	H	H	C	A	C	I	H
8	7	5	7	6	8	6	5	6	5	6	5	6
G	E	N	S	E	H	S	G	O	E	L	S	D

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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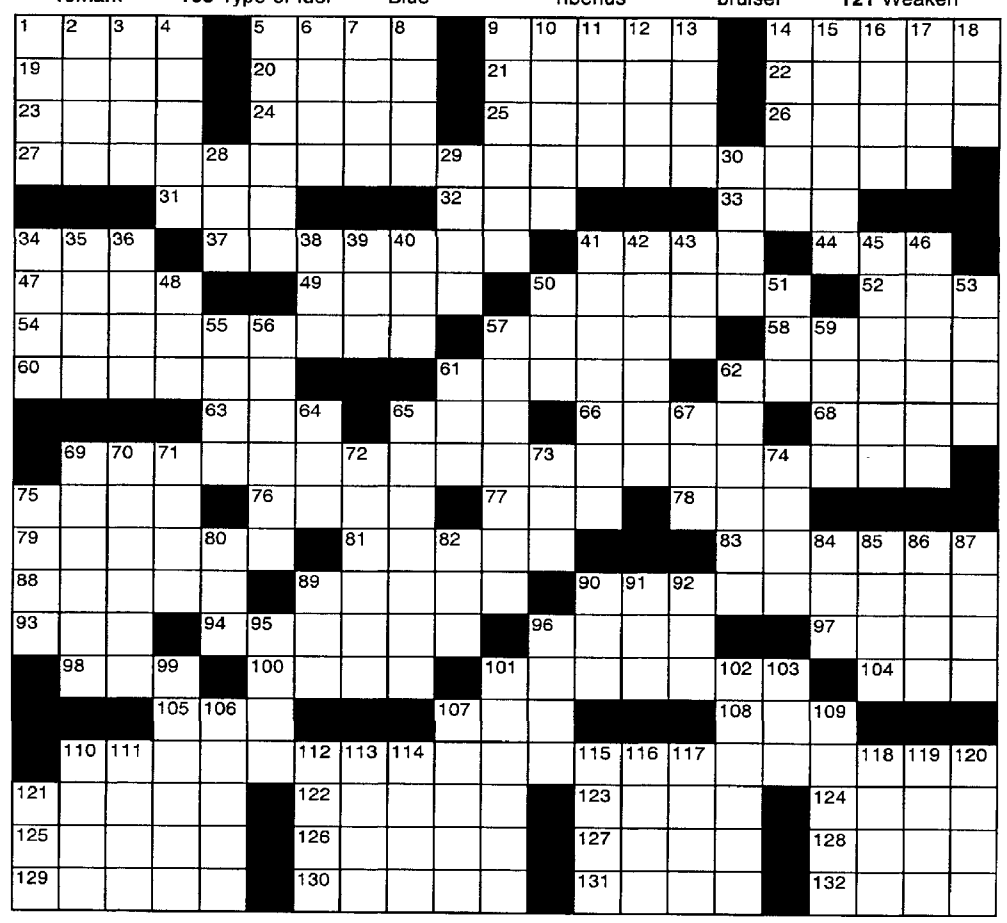
Super Crossword DILEMMA

ACROSS
1 Lump
5 Showed sorrow
9 Anthony of "Boston Public"
14 Jambalaya ingredient
19 Hammett hound
20 Where to find an onager
21 Songwriter Greenwich
22 Spine-tingling
23 Fertile soil
24 Tumble
25 Java joints
26 — -garde
27 Start of a remark
31 Herriot title start
32 Vigoda or Saperstein
33 Slippery character?
34 Brit. fliers
37 Singer Manchester
41 Celt
44 Faucet
47 94 Across highlight
49 Pants part
50 "The Jungle Book" boy
52 Cask
54 Part 2 of remark
57 "Love — the Ruins" ('75 film)
58 Neon —
60 Cap or dolman
61 Bookstore section
62 Bog
63 Precam-brian —
65 In honor of
66 Snick and —
68 — above (somewhat superior)
69 Part 3 of remark
75 Baseball family name
76 Antitoxins
77 Mouth piece?
78 Long or Peeples
79 Solidarity leader
81 Forger's need
83 Cultural
88 Wear away
89 Carthaginian
90 Part 4 of remark
93 Comic Rickles
94 Bizet opera
96 Nasty
97 "How sweet —!"
98 Cpl.'s superior
100 Type of fuel
101 Porgy and bass
104 Fast flier
105 He gives a hoot
107 Cooke or Donaldson
108 Male swan
110 End of remark
121 Biblical city
122 "That's —" ('54 tune)
123 Actress Thompson
124 Gymnast Korbut
125 "West Side Story" role
126 Porsche propeller
127 Tel —
128 Crucifix
129 Texas' state tree
130 Marvell marvels
131 Coty or Clair
132 Dweeb

DOWN
1 French Sudan, today
2 From
3 Command to Fido
4 Mead's milieu
5 Breakfast treat
6 Morales of "NYPD Blue"
7 Disagree-able sort
8 Hard to believe
9 Priam's wife
10 Cheer
11 — Romeo
12 Mortgage, for one
13 Actor Arnaz
14 Serenity
15 Disgust
16 Composer Khacha-turian
17 Deep red
18 Volleyball divider
28 City on the Danube
29 Kind of kiln
30 Fenwick or Carter
34 Snitches
35 Inland sea
36 Prix —
38 Baton Rouge coll.
39 Cloth finish
40 — Mateo, CA
41 Errs
42 It darkens your doorway
43 Bird-to-be
45 Join
46 Follow
48 "— you for real?"
50 2001, to Tiberius
51 Skater Midori
53 Publisher Conde
55 At any time
56 Brewer or Wright
57 Orlon, for instance
59 Part of Q.E.D.
61 Tofu base
62 Occupation
64 Sail through
65 Cozy cloth
67 Tons of time
69 Mild cigars
70 Fermented tea
71 Deplored
72 Shock
73 Word with baby or snake
74 Inaugura-tion Day event
75 Filled with wonder
80 Instant, for short
82 Coq au —
84 — polloi
85 '87 Streisand film
86 Egyptian deity
87 "— la vie"
89 Supportive of
90 Princess bruiser
91 Klutz
92 Plastic — Band
95 Bill of Rights grp.
96 Interoffice commu-nique
99 Honda competitor
101 Wimsey's creator
102 From C to shining C?
103 TV's "Scooby- —"
106 '81 John Lennon hit
107 Senator Thurmond
109 Borg of tennis
110 Actress Skye
111 Bank's backup org.
112 Clammy
113 "Typee" sequel
114 A bit of Beethoven
115 Weekend warriors: abbr.
116 Donated
117 Frigga's fellow
118 South African plant
119 Sikorsky or Stravinsky
120 Diane of "Chinatown"
121 Weaken



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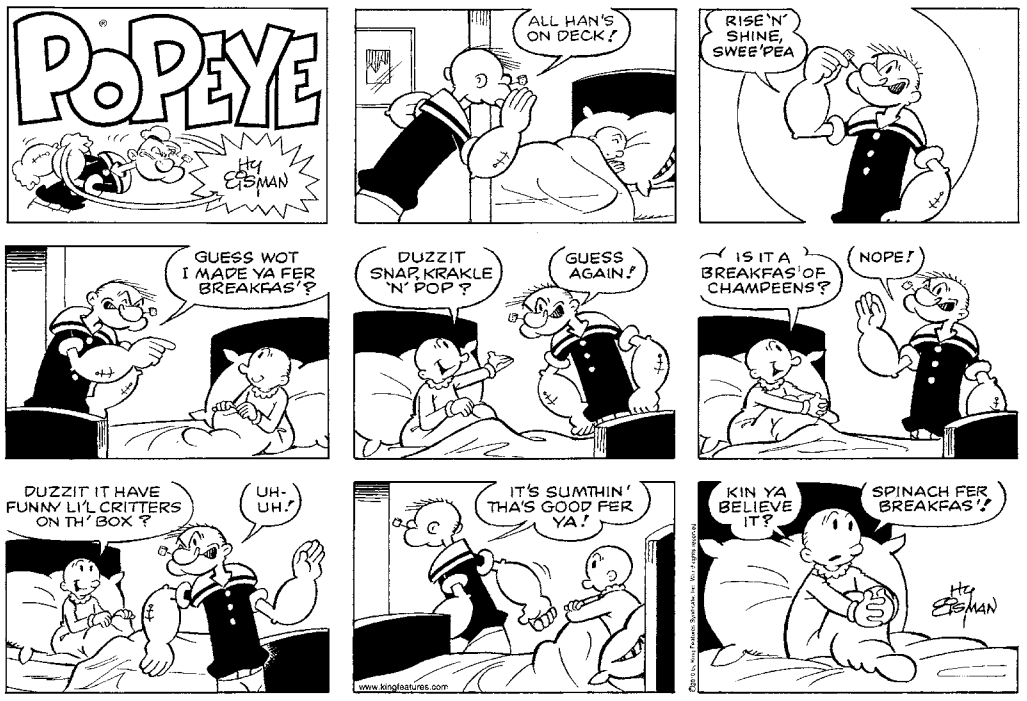
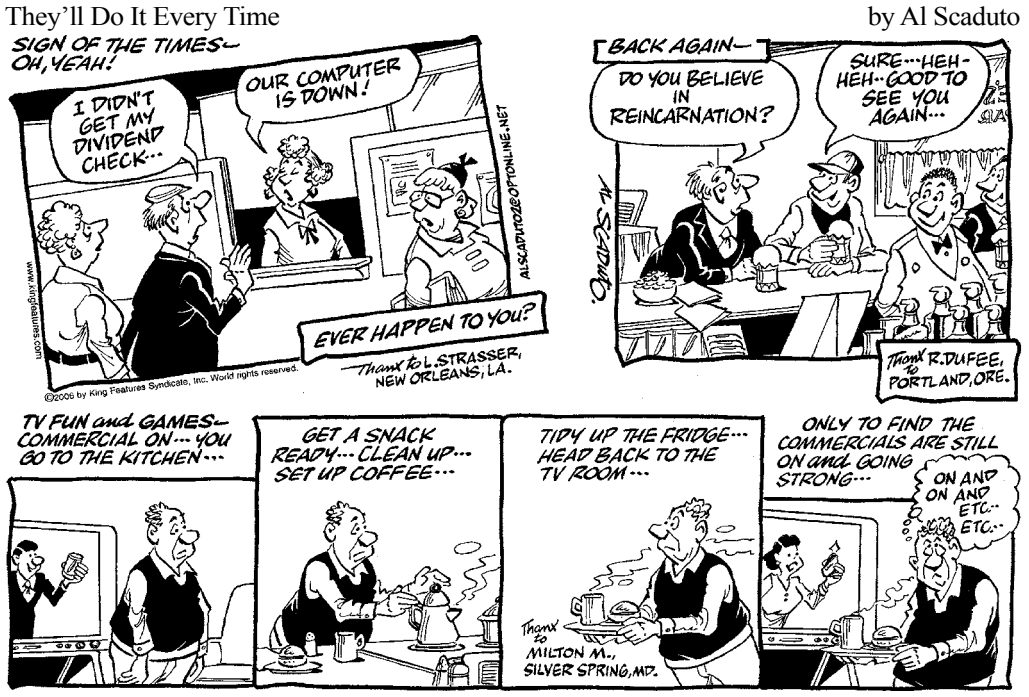


They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto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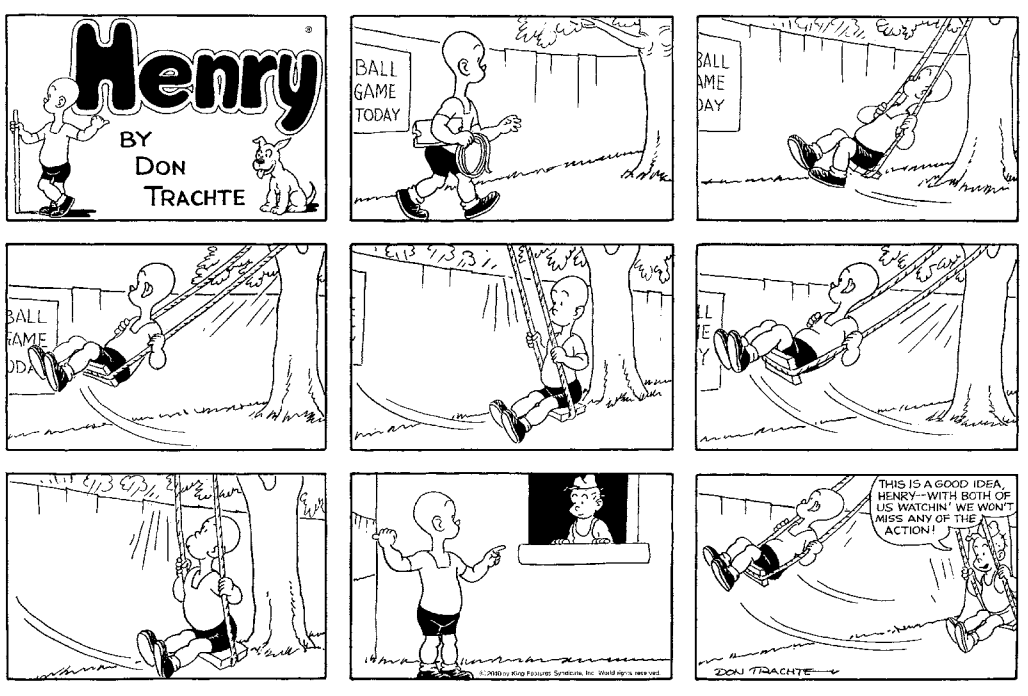
Henry
BY DON TRACHTE
BALL GAME TODAY
THIS IS A GOOD IDEA, HENRY--WITH BOTH OF US WATCHIN' WE WON'T MISS ANY OF THE ACTION!
DON TRACHTE

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. THEATER: Which musical featured a song with the lyrics, "I feel pretty, oh so pretty"?
2. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "From Here to Eternity"?
3. GEOGRAPHY: In what city would you find the Brandenburg Gate?
4. MUSIC: Which Southern rock band had a Top Ten single with "Imaginary Lover"?
5. MOVIES: In which movie did longtime game-show host Bob Barker make his debut?
6. SCIENCE: What does an ornithologist study?
7. COMPUTERS: What kind of computer file carries the extension ".wma"?
8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Who would use a Punnett square?
9. TELEVISION: John Travolta got his big break playing Vinnie Barbarino on which television show?
10. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Who once said, "Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read"?

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Answers

1. "West Side Story"
2. James Jones
3. Berlin
4. Atlanta Rhythm Section
5. "Happy Gilmore" with Adam Sandler
6. Birds
7. Audio
8. Geneticists use this chart to figure the heredity of genetic traits
9. "Welcome Back, Kotter"
10. Groucho Marx

Saturday's Answers

The Spats — by Jeff Pickering

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Isner finally beats Mahut, 70-68 in 5th

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—When The Match That Would Not End finally did, at 70-68 in the fifth set, after a record 11 hours, 5 minutes spread over three days, the customary handshake between opponents simply would not suffice.

So when John Isner of the United States won the longest match in tennis history and went to the net to greet Nicolas Mahut of France, who—for lack of a better word—lost Thursday at Wimbledon, Isner pulled Mahut in for a hug.

"You know," Isner told the crowd moments later, "it stinks someone had to lose."

Quite true.

There were 980 points overall, and Mahut won more, 502-478. There were 711 points in the fifth set, and Mahut won more, 365-346.

But Isner (IHZ-ner) won the most important point of all: the last one, which happened to be a rather nondescript backhand winner down the line. It allowed Isner to break Mahut's serve for only the second time all match. That also was the only service break of the seemingly interminable fifth set, ending a run of 168 consecutive holds that began in the second set, all the way back on Tuesday.

Essentially, the match lasted as long as it did for two reasons: Neither man could break the other's serve, and Wimbledon does not employ a tiebreaker in the fifth set.

"Especially once the match got past, you know, 25-all, I wasn't really thinking," said Isner, who led the University of Georgia to the 2007 NCAA team tennis championship. "Hitting a serve and trying to hit a forehand winner is the only thing I was doing."

When it did conclude, Isner dropped down to the court, rolled on his back, and kicked his legs in the air. After the players briefly spoke, Mahut sat in his changeover chair, stared blankly ahead, then draped a purple-and-yellow Wimbledon towel over his head.

"It's really painful," Mahut said.

The 23rd seeded Isner's 6-4, 3-6, 6-7 (7), 7-6 (3), 70-68 victory—yes, that's 70-68, not 7-6; sure reads like a typo, huh?—was merely a first-round match between two relatively unheralded players. Yet it will be remembered far more distinctly, and discussed far more frequently, than many a Grand Slam final, not because of the stakes, certainly, or the quality of play, necessarily, but because of all the math involved.

"The numbers," Mahut said, "speak for themselves."

To wit: The 183 games and total time, both far beyond the existing records of 112 and 6:33. The 138 games and 8:11 in the fifth set alone, also records. Isner's 112 aces in the match, and Mahut's 103, both much higher than the old mark of 78. The combined 490 winners (Isner had more, 246-244) and only 91 unforced errors (Isner had more, 52-39).

"We played the greatest match ever, in the greatest place to play tennis," said Mahut, who is ranked 148th and went through qualifying. "I thought he would make a mistake. I waited for that moment, and it never came."

Instead, Mahut faltered—46 hours, 39 minutes after the first point was played—and later acknowledged his abdominal muscles were aching Thursday. Both men showed remarkable resilience, even if they moved increasingly slowly.

They began at 6:09 p.m. Tuesday, but action was suspended after the fourth set because of darkness. And following 7 hours, 6 minutes of play Wednesday, the match was suspended again at 59-59 in the final set.

At some juncture as daylight was turning to dusk Wednesday, Isner said, "I was completely delirious. ... Even though it was dark, and no one could see, I wanted a final verdict, win or lose. I didn't want to have to sleep on it. But it wasn't to be."

Indeed, they had to come back Thursday afternoon, when another 20 games—the equivalent of at least two sets—and another 1 hour, 5 minutes, were required to wrap things up at 4:48 p.m.

"I'm tired watching this," kidded three-time Wimbledon champion John McEnroe, who took it in from a third-row seat. "It's Herculean what they're doing. ... I had to come pay my respects."

While Mahut remained mostly straightfaced and silent Thursday, Isner was constantly muttering to himself after missing shots. His coach, Craig Boynton, kept imploring Isner, yelling, "That's the right stuff, kid!" or "You'll get your look, kid!"

Eventually, Isner did. Coming out of a changeover ahead 69-68, he got to 15-all when Mahut pushed a forehand long. On the next point, Mahut hit a poor drop shot that hit the net, then yanked at his hair and grimaced, the score now 15-30. His volley winner made it 30-all, but Mahut would not win another point.

Isner smacked a forehand passing winner down the line to earn his fifth match point of the fifth set—he had wasted four such chances Wednesday—and shook his fists, while Mahut rolled his eyes. And then, in a blink, it was over, thanks to Isner's last backhand.

"It was the will to win. Not that I outwilled him; I mean, obviously, he gave it his all," Isner said. "I just kind of was a little bit more fortunate than he was."

As he basked in the crowd's standing ovation, Isner made sure to point in Mahut's direction and applaud, too.

There were moments the night before when Isner wasn't sure he'd be standing at the end.

Mom wasn't so sure, either.

"At the end of yesterday, I was worried," Isner's mother, Karen, who sat in the stands, said Thursday. "He was kind of stumbling around, and I was kind of worried. My friends had to sort of hold me back, because I was kind of inclined to go on the court and go, 'OK. That's it. We're done here.'"

Understandably, both men were wiped out Wednesday night. Isner "was incoherent" for 20 minutes, according to Boynton.

Isner and Mahut tried to recover as best they could, with ice baths and massages, by drinking and eating plenty. Andy Roddick, the 2003 U.S. Open champion who played earlier Wednesday, went out and got an assortment of takeout food for Isner and his coach, including pizzas, chicken and mashed potatoes.

The 25-year-old Isner, of Tampa, Fla., was heretofore best known—if known at all—for upsetting fellow American Roddick in the U.S. Open's third round last year, and never before had won a match at the All England Club. The 28-year-old Mahut's biggest accomplishment probably was his Wimbledon junior title in 2000; as a pro, he's only once been to the third round at any Grand Slam tournament.

So it was understandable that neither managed more than about three or four hours of sleep Wednesday night, anxious about getting back out there. After all, cozy Court 18 might have only 782 seats, but it had become their big stage.

"Not often do I steal the show from a guy like Federer, but I think I did," Isner said.

Roger Federer, who owns a record 16 Grand Slam titles, including six at the All England Club, was among the fellow pros gushing about the enormity of this match.

"I knew it was probably a big deal around the tennis world, because this is Wimbledon, so anybody that follows tennis, all eyes are on this tournament," Isner said. "It was when I got back to the locker room that I realized, you know, how big of a story it was, really, worldwide."

And there's no rest for the weary now. Isner is due at Court 5 on Friday at noon (7 a.m. EDT) to face 49th-ranked Thiemo de Bakker of the Netherlands, whose own first-round victory normally would be considered something extraordinary, because it went to 16-14 in the fifth set.

Ha! 16-14! How mundane.

Whatever else Isner or Mahut may accomplish in tennis, however many matches or titles each may win, they forever will be associated with these three days at the All England Club and one particular score: 70-68.

Isner recognizes that.

He also is intent on adding to his resume.

"This one's obviously going to stick with me probably the rest of my life, really. But I hope it doesn't define my career. I think I have what it takes, you know, to do some really big things in this game," Isner said. "The four biggest tournaments of the year are the Grand Slams. I have probably a good seven, eight years left to try to make a good run at 'em. So hopefully this won't be the thing that I'm most remembered about."

AP

John Isner, left, of the US embraces his opponent France's Nicolas Mahut following their epic men's singles match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, Thursday, June 24, 2010.

Nadal misses queen but advances at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—The King of Clay passed up a chance to meet the Queen of England.

Rafael Nadal had another priority—winning at Wimbledon.

Queen Elizabeth II visited the All England Club for the first time since 1977 and met a small group of current and former players, including Roger Federer and the Williams sisters. Nadal was invited, but his practice schedule conflicted, and he wanted to be in top form for his second-round match later Thursday.

Hours after the queen departed, Nadal took Centre Court and beat Robin Haase 5-7, 6-2, 3-6, 6-0, 6-3. British tabloids may take the five-time French Open champion to task, but he defended his decision to put practice ahead of royalty.

"I am playing in Wimbledon. It's not a joke. I love this tournament," Nadal said. "I have a lot of respect for the queen. I have a lot of respect for this tournament. Today is a match day for me, no? So I have my things to do."

Nadal said he thought the queen might attend his match and he could meet her afterward, but he played late in the day, and she stayed only long enough to watch Briton Andy Murray win.

The queen missed seeing Nadal at his most ferocious in the final two sets. He ripped a point-blank backhand that nearly knocked the racket from Haase's hand. He almost drilled a linesman in the face with an overhead winner. And in the final set he served like John Isner, winning all 20 of his service points.

"I'm very happy to win in five sets," Nadal said. "Everybody prefers to win in three, but it's not possible a lot of times, especially on this surface, because all depends on a few points."

Not always. Top-ranked Serena Williams drubbed Anna Chakvetadze 6-0, 6-1. Maria Sharapova, Caroline Wozniacki and Robin Soderling also won easily.

Before her victory, Williams greeted the queen with a curtsy she practiced for days.

"My bow didn't go the way I wanted," Williams said. "I didn't get my wrist action that I thought I would have, and then I got nervous. ... I definitely handle pressure way better on the court than off."

All 10 seeded men playing second-round matches advanced. Three seeded women lost: No. 18 Aravane Rezai, No. 19 Svetlana Kuznetsova and No. 23 Zheng Jie.

Wizards select Kentucky's Wall with No. 1 pick

NEW YORK (AP)—John Wall is heading to Washington, and a record number of Kentucky teammates are following him to the NBA.

Wall went to the Wizards with the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft Thursday and four more Wildcats were among the top 30 selections, making them the first school ever to put five players in the first round.

After falling short of the Final Four even with all that talent around him, Wall is ready to help Washington bounce back from a season that was embarrassing on the court and in the locker room.

"I feel like I had pressure since I became No. 1 in high school and was one of the top players," Wall said. "I always got there hungry wanting to fight hard and compete in every game, so when I step on the court I'm going to take on any challenge there."

The SEC player of the year is the first Kentucky player chosen first overall. He goes to a team still reeling from Gilbert Arenas' season-ending suspension for bringing guns into the team locker room.

Wall could replace Arenas as the Wizards' point guard, or perhaps play alongside him in a potential high-scoring backcourt. He'll try to become the third straight freshman point guard to win Rookie of the Year honors after Chicago's Derrick Rose and Sacramento's Tyreke Evans—who like Wall also played for John Calipari.

The pick came shortly after a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press that the Chicago Bulls had agreed to trade veteran guard Kirk Hinrich and the 17th pick in the draft, Kevin Seraphin, to the Wizards. Hinrich is a solid veteran defensive guard who could help with Wall's transition to the NBA.

After his name was announced to begin the draft, Wall hugged family members and donned a blue Wizards cap before climbing onto the stage to shake commissioner David Stern's hand.

Predicted to finish in the top half of the Eastern Conference last season, the Wizards' season quickly spiraled out of control, reaching its low point on New Year's Day when news broke of the altercation involving guns between Arenas and fellow guard Javaris Crittenton, who also was suspended for the year. Washington eventually traded fellow stars Antawn Jamison and Caron Butler in a dismal 26-56 finish.

Arenas is eligible to return, but Wall is ready to take charge of the team.

"I was always a leader by example being the first in the gym and the last in the gym," Wall said. "But I'm a leader that doesn't mind speaking up to the older guys."

Kentucky landed a second top-five pick when DeMarcus Cousins was taken by Sacramento at No. 5, then put two more players in the top 18 when the Houston Rockets chose Patrick Patterson at No. 14 and Oklahoma City took guard Eric Bledsoe—whose rights were later sent to the Clippers—four spots later. Daniel Orton then went to Orlando with the 29th pick, breaking the previous record of four first-round picks from one school.

"It's a big day and they are all behind us right now and they won't stop texting and tweeting and calling me, so this will be a big day," Cousins said.

The Philadelphia 76ers took national player of the year Evan Turner from Ohio State at No. 2. The notoriously tough Philadelphia fans at Madison Square Garden liked the choice, loudly cheering and chanting "Evan Turner! Evan Turner!"

AP

NBA commissioner David Stern, left, poses with the No. 1 overall draft pick, John Wall, of Kentucky, who was selected by the Washington Wizards in the first round of the NBA basketball draft Thursday, June 24, 2010, in New York.

"I don't have any pressure. I have a lot of demands of myself," Turner said. "If Philly expects me to be great, then we have a mutual understanding."

Derrick Favors became the second freshman taken in the first three picks when the New Jersey Nets chose the Georgia Tech forward.

"I pretty much knew John was going to 1 and Evan was going 2, but I had no idea I was going to the Nets, and when they called me I was just excited," Favors said.

The Minnesota Timberwolves then grabbed Syracuse forward Wesley Johnson, whom the Nets also had considered. Stern seemed impressed by the Christmas-colored slacks worn by Johnson, who held up his leg to show them off.

Baylor's Ekpe Udoh also is headed to Northern California, chosen by Golden State at No. 6. Detroit kept up the run of big men by selecting Georgetown center Greg Monroe with the seventh pick, before the Los Angeles Clippers went for Wake Forest's Al-Farouq Aminu.

Butler's Gordon Hayward went ninth to Utah, one spot before the Indiana Pacers would've faced pressure to pick the hometown star. Instead, they chose Fresno State forward Paul George before Kansas teammates Cole Aldrich (New Orleans) and Xavier Henry (Memphis) went with back-to-back picks.

Aldrich's rights were later sent to Oklahoma City along with veteran swingman Morris Peterson for the rights to the Thunder's Nos. 21 and 26 picks, which became Iowa State forward Craig Brackins and Washington guard Quincy Pondexter.

The draft hadn't even started and already the buzz was on free agency, which opens in exactly a week with LeBron James leading perhaps the deepest class ever. There were even a few chants for the league's MVP, whom the Knicks are expected to make a run at.

Moves were made with July 1 in mind, such as the Bulls' deal with Washington that opened additional salary cap space for perhaps a second top player. Toronto drafted North Carolina's Ed Davis at No. 13, a potential replacement if the Raptors lose Chris Bosh in free agency.

"I know they have big free agents coming up with Chris Bosh and people are saying he's not going to be there, but right now I'm just going to try to work hard and earn the starting job," Davis said.

There were a flurry of trades near the bottom of the first round, including a deal that sent forward Martell Webster from Portland to Minnesota for Ryan Gomes and the rights to the No. 16 pick, Luke Babbitt.

Pedroia's 3 homers powers Boston past Rockies

DENVER (AP)—Dustin Pedroia hit three home runs, including a tiebreaking shot off Huston Street in the 10th inning, to lift the Boston Red Sox over the Colorado Rockies 13-11 in a wild game Thursday that lasted nearly five hours.

Boston averted a three-game sweep in a rematch of the 2007 World Series and bailed out closer Jonathan Papelbon after he blew a late lead at Coors Field for the second straight night.

Rangers 6, Pirates 5

At Arlington, Texas, Vladimir Guerrero singled home the winning run with two outs in the ninth inning against Pittsburgh as the Texas Rangers won their 11th straight game.

Josh Hamilton had three hits for the American League West leaders, extending his career-best hitting streak to 18 games. Texas' winning streak is the longest in the majors this season. The club record is 14 consecutive wins in 1991.

Phillies 12, Indians 3

At Philadelphia, Joe Blanton pitched effectively into the eighth inning and the Philadelphia Phillies roughed up Fausto Carmona to complete a three-game sweep of the Cleveland Indians with a 12-3 victory in interleague play on Thursday.

Placido Polanco had four hits, Chase Utley and Jayson Werth each had three hits and catcher Dane Sardinha connected for his first career home run for the Phillies.

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White Sox 2, Braves 0

At Chicago, Paul Konerko homered with two outs in the eighth inning, lifting Chicago to their ninth straight victory.

Gavin Floyd, J.J. Putz and Bobby Jenks combined on a two-hitter for the White Sox, who have their longest winning streak since 2006 and have won 13 of their last 14 games.

Brewers 5, Twins 0

At Milwaukee, Yovani Gallardo did not allow a baserunner until Drew Butera singled with one out in the sixth inning, and Milwaukee went on to complete a sweep of Minnesota.

Prince Fielder and Rickie Weeks homered as the suddenly resurgent Brewers chased struggling Twins starter Nick Blackburn from the game in the fourth inning. Gallardo (7-3) tied a career high with 12 strikeouts and gave up only five hits as he recorded his second career shutout.

Rays 5, Padres 3

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Matt Garza pitched eight effective innings, Kelly Shoppach came within a triple of hitting for the cycle and Tampa Bay beat San Diego. Garza (8-5) gave up three runs and six hits. Tampa Bay also got home runs from B.J. Upton and Carlos Pena.

Cubs 3, Mariners 2, 13 innings

At Seattle, Marlon Byrd hit an opposite field RBI single with one out in the 13th inning to help Chicago beat Seattle and avoid a sweep.

Pinch-hitter Alfonso Soriano led off the 13th with a walk against reliever Garrett Olson (0-2). Kosuke Fukudome sacrificed Soriano to second and, after Ryan Theriot walked, Byrd lined a 1-2 pitch from Sean White into right field. Soriano was waved around third and beat Ichiro Suzuki's throw to the plate.

Tigers 6, Mets 5

At New York, Armando Galarraga won for the first time since his near-perfect game, Phil Coke struck out David Wright in a key spot as Detroit held off the Mets.

Magglio Ordonez and Ryan Raburn homered as the Tigers built a 6-1 lead through five innings and managed to avert a sweep.

Blue Jays 5, Cardinals 0

At Toronto, Vernon Wells homered twice and Brandon Morrow pitched eight sharp innings as Toronto beat St. Louis.

Adam Lind also homered for the Blue Jays. Morrow (5-5) allowed five hits, walked one and struck out eight before a crowd of only 12,392.

Orioles 11, Marlins 5

At Baltimore, Miguel Tejada had a season-high four hits, ended a long home run drought and drove in four runs to lead Baltimore over Florida.

Tejada singled in a run and scored in the third inning, singled in the fourth, singled and scored in the sixth and hit a three-run homer in the seventh. The drive ended a career-long streak of 205 at-bats without a home run.

Astros 7, Giants 5

At Houston, Wandy Rodriguez shook off his recent struggles and Hunter Pence had a three-run homer to lead Houston to its first series win over San Francisco this season.

Rodriguez (4-10) allowed four hits and two runs —none earned —in six innings to break a three-game losing streak. It's his first win since June 2 after allowing 17 runs combined in his losing skid.

Pacific Games 4th trial today at COP

Organizers of the series of trials for the 2011 Pacific Games are calling all interested golfers to join the fourth qualifying tournament today at Coral Ocean Point.

Check-in time is at 11am, while tee time is set for 12pm. The fourth qualifier will be played from the blue tee.

Golfers who competed in the first three qualifiers from the white tee are asked to compete in the weekend event if they can't make it to the optional qualifier in September.

Scores in all four regular qualifiers will be tallied to determine the five golfers who will represent the CNMI to the Pacific Games in New Caledonia next year.

The fifth qualifier (blue tee) set for September will give participants the chance to make up or drop their lowest score in the first four trials.

For more information, contact Jess Wabol at 288-1129, Edward Manibusan at 235-6520, Jeff Taylor at 483-2513, or Jordon Kosam at 483-4506. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Rose birdies 5 of last 6 holes at Travelers

CROMWELL, Conn. (AP)— Justin Rose birdied five of his final six holes for a 6-under 64 and a share of the first-round lead Thursday in the Travelers Championship.

Rose, the Memorial winner three weeks ago who failed to qualify for the U.S. Open last week at Pebble Beach, missed a 12-foot birdie putt on 18, leaving him tied with morning starters Padraig Harrington, Charlie Wi and Mathew Goggin.

Rose was 1 under through 12 holes, before making his run, which included a 34-foot birdie putt on 17.

"I was more than happy to walk off there with a par," he said. "But sometimes when things are going your way, you roll in a 30-footer and suddenly, I was like, 'Things are going right now.'"

Harrington and Rose are trying to run Europe's tour winning streak to four.

"As I've been saying for quite a while, European golf is very strong and there's a lot of good young players finding their way in the game, learning how to win, given the opportunity," Harrington said. "You've seen three in the last three weeks and a few others during the year."

Northern Ireland's Graeme McDowell won the big prize last week at the U.S. Open. The Memorial was Rose's first tour win, and fellow Englishman Lee Westwood won before that at the St. Jude Classic.

Harrington, Goggin and Wi all capitalized on perfect morning conditions, finishing well before high wind and heavy rain hit the area in the afternoon, forcing a 90-minute delay.

Harrington birdied his first three holes and was 4 under at the turn.

Goggin made his run on the back nine, birdieing Nos. 13, 15 and 17.

Both Goggin and Wi played bogey-free rounds. Wi made four back-nine birdies, including three straight on 12, 13 and 14 to pull into even.

"The conditions were perfect when we teed off," Wi said. "The wind didn't start blowing until about the seventh hole so I was able to make some birdies when the conditions were perfect."

Vijay Singh shot a 65 in the afternoon despite wind gusts in the area of up to 25 mph.

"It wasn't totally into us, except for six holes, I think," Singh said. "It wasn't awfully bad. It was gusty, but if you timed it well, it wasn't that bad."

Six others also shot 65s, including 50-year-old former U.S. Open champion Corey Pavin, who hit all 14 fairways in regulation.

"It's really important to hit the fairways, keep it in play, hit some nice shots into the greens and take a birdie when you can get it," he said. "And it's not a course generally where the scoring is tremendously low, but it can be, but you have to play smart golf here and play your own game."

Last year, Kenny Perry won by shooting 22-under par. Harrington said knowing scores could go that low forced some aggressive play.

"You got to think you got to make birdies," Harrington said. "You really do. You gotta poach first and take your chance every now and again that you will get yourself in trouble, but hopefully you'll recover. But you've gotta take a chance to make plenty of birdies."

The shot of the day came from Chad Campbell, who used a 6-iron to ace the 165-yard 16th hole. Campbell knocked the ball just above the pin and watched it roll back into the cup.

"There wasn't much reaction on the green," he said. "We didn't know if it was going in. It was so early, it was pretty much just marshals back there. We didn't know for sure it was in."

Campbell said he has 10 aces in his life and this was his second on tour. It was the 30th ace in the history of the Connecticut tournament.

For his effort, Campbell won a $50,000 shopping spree at a jewelry store.

CNMI

From Page 28

CNMI players were just getting the feel of the game and we are helping them reach the competitive level of play by playing against them. Now, CNMI players improved significantly and they were about to beat us," the GFA head added.

Fortunately, Jason Ryan Cunliffe saved the day for Guam, drilling a late goal in the 89th minute to force a 1-1 tie.

"My boy, Jason came out with the gutsy play and scored, just like what he did during the EAFF preliminary in Guam last year," Lai said.

Cunliffe made a game-tying goal for Guam in the 91st minute during their match against Macau, allowing Guam to rule the preliminary tournament and beat eventual runner-up Mongolia.

With or without Cunliffe's game-saving goal last weekend, Lai had his hats off to CNMI players, its coaches, and officials for a well-organized event and for giving Guam another tough game.

"It there's one organization which will be proud to see CNMI players improved, it would be GFA. Your success in football is our dream. We will do our best to help Northern Mariana Islands Football Association develop its program and continue improving their players' skills," Lai added.

Meanwhile, Lai and the Guam men's and women's team members and coaches thanked organizers of the Marianas Cup for providing them a much improved pitch.

Two years ago, Guam strikers struggled in a bit rocky and dry Oleai pitch. Then more than a month before this year's Marianas Cup, NMIFA through the help of both the private and public sectors rehabilitated the pitch, which now resembles the manicured greens of a golf course.

NMIFA president Jerry Tan thanked all those who contributed to the successful staging of the Marianas Cup and vowed to keep the good condition of the Oleai pitch and seek improvement of other fields to ensure safety of the players.

ZAPANTA

From Page 28

In the Class B competition, top seed Efren Cacdac mirrored Raymond's win by beating third-placer Jared Gutierrez in the second game after dropping the first.

Cacdac beat Gutierrez, 200-172, in Game 2 to win the championship. He was extended to a second game after losing Game 1, 143-178.

Gutierrez upset Joe Sto. Domingo in the semifinals, 177-175. Cacdac took home $300, while Gutierrez and Sto. Domingo pocketed $200 and $100, respectively.

Cacdac topped the six-game roll-off with 1,154 pinfalls with Sto. Domingo knocking down 1,049 pins and Gutierrez smacking 1,037.

Cruz then dominated Class C after beating Jerry Hibi in a one-and-done finals, 155-142. No. 3 Hibi earlier booked a ticket to the championship round after a 166-149 victory over No. 2 Paul Bea.

Cruz tattooed 985 pins to top the roll-off with Bea and Hibi coming next with rolls of 960 and 940.

The Class C victory was worth $250 for Cruz, while Hibi and Bea received $150 and $75.

King and Queen of Lanes

The 2010 June Budweiser King, Queen, and Prince/Princess of the Lanes will be held this Sunday and Monday at the Capital Bowling Center.

The Sunday schedule is 4pm, while action starts at 6pm on Monday. Youth bowlers for the Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes will only bowl on Sunday.

OL'ACES

From Page 28

sumed, Rangamar sprinted to their frontcourt for a layup and drew a foul from Derrick Aughenbaugh. Rangamar missed the first charity and made the second to put the Runnin' Rebels on top, but not for long, as Ogumoro answered with his game-winning layup.

Rabauliman top-scored for Ol'Aces with 22 points, while Ogumoro chipped in 21.

Ivan De Vero paced the Runnin' Rebels with 16 markers.

In the first game, Bacardi Mojito Hi-5 recovered from its league opening loss to Becks 670 after downing the debuting Budweiser Saints, 76-52.

After a slow start, Hi-5 began hitting its mark in the second period, turning a 10-7 lead to a 28-21 halftime advantage. In the second half, Hi-5 continued to shoot well from outside, outgunning the Saints, 24-13, for a commanding 52-34 lead at the end of the third period.

Dave Sablan led Hi-5 with 14 points, while James Villacrusis and Kae Bernardo added 13 and 10, respectively.

First Game

Hi-5 76 – Sablan 14, Villacrusis 13, Bernardo 10, Lauron 8, Abuel 7, Moises 6, Lerio 6, Capalad 3, Santos 2.

Saints 52 – Manibusan 14, Camacho 10, Tumaquip 9, L.J. Reyes 7, La. Reyes 5, Lu. Reyes 4, San Nicolas 4.

Scoring by quarters: 10-7, 28-21, 52-34, 76-52.

Second Game

Ol'Aces 74 – Rabauliman 23, Ogumoro 21, Coldeen 9, Lisua 8, Omar 4, Aughenbaugh 4, Fernandez 2.

Runnin' Rebells 73 – De Vero 16, Tomokane 14, Rangamar 14, Norita 9, Teregeyo 7, Olaitiman 6, Iguel 5, Kenty 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-13, 27-32, 50-51, 74-73.

ITALY

From Page 28

didn't prepare the match well tactically or psychologically."

In Group E, Japan advanced to the next round along with the Netherlands. The Japanese beat Denmark 3-1 in Rustenburg, while the Dutch defeated Cameroon 2-1 in Cape Town as Arjen Robben made his World Cup debut at this year's tournament.

The Netherlands will next face Slovakia on Monday in Durban, while Paraguay takes on Japan on Tuesday in Pretoria.

Italy came into the World Cup with mostly the same team of veterans that won the title four years ago in Germany. But this year, defender Fabio Cannavaro was far from his best and the attack failed to produce goals until the team was facing elimination.

For Slovakia, Robert Vittek scored goals in the 25th and 73rd minutes.

The second goal seemed to finally wake Italy's struggling front line and Antonio Di Natale pulled one back for the Italians in the 81st.

Substitute Kamil Kopunek restored the two-goal lead for Slovakia with a smart lob in the 89th, and Fabio Quagliarella added the final goal for Italy in injury time.

"We've shown that we're not here for a holiday," Slovakia forward Erik Jendrisek said.

Letting in early goals in South Africa was nothing new for Italy, which was held to 1-1 draws by Paraguay and New Zealand in its first two group matches.

Italy hasn't won a match since beating Sweden 1-0 in a friendly in November, drawing five times and losing twice since then.

Italy won the 2006 World Cup final with a penalty shootout win over France, which only qualified this year after Thierry Henry used his hand to set up the deciding goal in a playoff win over Ireland.

Things didn't get any prettier after France arrived in South Africa. The 1998 World Cup winners drew 0-0 with Uruguay on the opening day. Then, in between losses to Mexico and host South Africa, striker Nicolas Anelka was thrown off the squad after refusing to apologize for insulting coach Raymond Domenech.

The rest of the team declined to train the next day because of the treatment given their teammate.

On Thursday in Paris, the French players arrived home to a cold welcome as police guarded the tarmac to let the players disembark away from journalists and fans.

Paraguay moved into the round of 16 for the fourth time in its history as neither team threatened to score in Polokwane.

The Paraguayans also reached the second round at the World Cup in 1986, 1998 and 2002.

"Obviously, the first goal was to advance," Paraguay striker Roque Santa Cruz said. "We had some good moments in the first three games and obviously there are some things that we need to improve."

New Zealand exits the tournament without losing a match, just as Switzerland did four years ago. But in Germany, the Swiss reached the round of 16 and then lost to Ukraine on penalties.

"We are proud and disappointed at the same time now," New Zealand coach Ricki Herbert said. "We remained unbeaten but are still eliminated. I am proud, and no one takes away from me what we have done here."

Outside the stadium, police clashed with celebrating New Zealand fans, but police spokesman Motlafela Mojapelo denied there were any major incidents.

"Inside and around the stadium, no violence was reported with any of the police posts in operation," Mojapelo said. "Police escorted the fans to the city center without problems."

Keisuke Honda and Yusuhito Endo scored from free kicks in the first half, and Shinji Okazaki added a late goal for Japan, which advanced to the round of 16 for the second time in history.

Jon Dahl Tomasson scored the lone goal for Denmark, tapping in a rebound after Japan goalkeeper Eiji Kawashima saved his penalty kick.

The Japanese advanced to the knockout rounds for the first time since 2002, when they co-hosted the tournament with South Korea.

"I'm glad we won but I am not satisfied," Honda said. "The next game is more important. I want to show the Japanese that nothing is impossible."

The Netherlands finally produced some flair at the tournament in South Africa, and Robben was one of the main contributors after coming on as a 73rd-minute substitute.

After misplaying a long pass, Robben took control of the ball and sent a bending shot off the post. Although he didn't score, Klaas Jan Huntelaar was there to tap it in and give the Dutch a 2-1 lead in the 83rd.

"Our play was good," Netherlands winger Robin van Persie said. "We can be really pleased with this."

Van Persie scored the first goal in the 36th, while Samuel Eto'o briefly equalized in the 65th by scoring from the penalty spot.

South African Police Service have already said extra security measures will be in place for the World Cup match between England and Germany, which will be played Sunday in Bloemfontein.

Isner finally beats Mahut, 70-68 in 5th

Page 25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Wizards select Kentucky's Wall with No. 1 pick

Page 26

CNMI football success is Guam's dream

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A relieved Richard Lai, president of Guam Football Association, showed up at the banquet for the 4th Annual Marianas Football Cup and shared the mixed emotions he felt during the Guam-CNMI tussle last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

"About two minutes before the match ended and with CNMI ahead, I was nervous. It seemed like we were about to lose a game against the CNMI for the first time," Lai said during the banquet at the Seaside Grill of Saipan Grand Hotel.

After a scoreless first half, the CNMI took a 1-0 lead when Joe Miller nailed a goal in the 68th minute off a gamble by Guam goalie Brett Maluweng.

"But at the same time, I was proud, as several years ago, this

See CNMI on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, East Asian Football Federation general secretary Takeo Okada, Guam Football Association president Richard Lai, and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan participate in the opening ceremony for the 4th Annual Marianas Football Club last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

AP

Slovakia's Robert Vittek, right, controls the ball from Italy's Gianluca Zambrotta during the World Cup group F soccer match between Slovakia and Italy at Ellis Park Stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa, Thursday, June 24, 2010.

Italy eliminated from World Cup in 1st round

CHRIS LEHOURITES
AP SPORTS WRITER

JOHANNESBURG (AP)— Italy joined France on the sidelines of the World Cup on Thursday, the first time that both finalists from the previous tournament have been eliminated in the first round.

The four-time champion Italians lost to Slovakia 3-2 at Ellis Park, allowing the Slovaks to advance to the round of 16 from Group F along with Paraguay, which drew 0-0 with New Zealand.

"I take full responsibility," Italy coach Marcello Lippi said. "If the squad went out with fear in their legs and hearts it means the coach

See ITALY on Page 27

Ol'Aces slip past Runnin' Rebels

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Bud Light Lime Ol'Aces booked their second win in as many games in the 2010 Budweiser Men's Basketball League after sneaking past the O'Doul's Runnin' Rebels, 74-73, on Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Trevor Ogumoro delivered the game-winning basket for Ol'Aces when he made a layup in the dying seconds of the tightly fought match.

The Runnin' Rebels had the lead for the last time, 73-72, after a split free throw from Leroy Rangamar, 11.5 seconds to go in the fourth quarter.

After Rangamar sank his second charity, Ol'Aces' Bobby Coldeen went for a quick inbound and passed the ball to Dave Palacios. Palacios was then hounded by two defenders from the backcourt, but kept his composure and managed to get the ball to Ogumoro to their frontcourt.

Ogumoro dribbled toward the left sideline, while teammate Marvin Rabauliman cut from the opposite wing and begged for the ball. However, Ogumuro took matters into his own hands, switched his dribble from left to the center for a layup, giving Ol'Aces a 74-73 lead.

With 0.4 of a second left on the clock, the Runnin' Rebels ran out of time for a decent shot, dropping the team to a 0-2 record.

The Runnin' Rebels had a chance to break into the win column when Rangamar hit a triple to break the deadlock, 72-69, with 36.8 seconds left in the game.

Rabauliman was fouled in the ensuing Ol'Aces play, drilled his first free throw, and missed the second. Coldeen went for the offensive rebound and the putback, but overshot his mark.

Ogumoro grabbed another offensive board for Ol'Aces and was fouled on his way to the basket. He then canned the pressure-packed charities to tie the game, 72-all, with 24.6 second left in the match.

The Runnin' Rebels called timeout and when the game re-

See OL'ACES on Page 27

Bud Light Lime's Derrick Aughenbaugh eludes the defense of three Runnin' Rebels players and goes for a reverse layup during their game in the Budweiser caging on Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Zapanta, Cacdac, Cruz win Budweiser Classified tourney

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Raymond Zapanta, Efren Cacdac, and Benjie Cruz were each crowned champions of the 2010 Philippine Bowling Association-Budweiser Classified Bowling Tournament held last June 20 at the Capitol Bowling Center in Garapan.

Zapanta won the Class A championship after nipping younger brother Raphael in the finals. Raphael, who beat rolloff third-placer Simon Manacop in the semifinals (169-160), took Game 1, 177-148.

But Raymond stormed right back after losing his twice-to-beat advantage and secured the championship with a 170-157 win in Game 2.

Zapanta

Raymond topped the six-game rolloff with 1,189 pinfalls, followed by Raphael's 1,136 and Manacop's 1,134.

The victory was worth $350 for Raymond, while Raphael and Manacop earned $250 and $150, respectively.

See ZAPANTA on Page 27